

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

80-Year-Old Coach Still Batting a Thousand

By Michele Lynn

In baseball, statistics reign supreme: RBIs and batting averages dominate the thoughts of fans. So when it comes to racking up the numbers, Glen Park resident Thelma Williams is one of the sport's biggest stars: this diminutive great-grandmother has spent 36 years coaching youth baseball in San Francisco—guiding scores of teams, and touching thousands of young lives.

Sitting in her Glen Park cottage, attired in a navy blue warm-up jacket inscribed with "Director: Pee wee Baseball," Williams looks like your average baseball coach—that is, if your average baseball coach is 5 feet tall and 80 years old. As her bird Reno whistles cheerily in the background, she pulls out a weathered album containing yellowed newspaper clippings of her teams, and a lot of black-and-white photos. On the inside cover she has written, "Where It All Started: Glen Park."

It all started in 1955, when her two sons' baseball coach had to leave the team. Her husband, who was "crazy about baseball," took over the coaching duties, but soon bowed out when he realized that his lack of patience made him unsuited for coaching children.

So Thelma stepped up to the plate, and soon discovered that she loved coaching. "In high school, I thought baseball was stupid," she recalls. "But I always liked sports, even though I didn't know that much about them." Williams quickly learned the rules of the game, and although she never played baseball herself,



After 36 years of coaching baseball in the city's parks, 80-year-old Thelma Williams is ready to share some tips with protégé Harley Augustino. Harley, 12, played for her for three years, but now coaches other kids in the "pee wee" league at Glen Park. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

she often took to the mound to pitch to the children.

During her long career in the city's parks, Williams has coached for just about every league in existence: the Police Athletic League (PAL), the Recreation and Park Department League, and San Francisco Youth Baseball (a merger of the police and fire department leagues with Rec and Park).

She has coached all ages, but her heart belongs to the "pee wee" leagues, she says, because the youngest children "need patience and attention the most."

A few of the boys who learned the game from Williams have gone on "to get a cup of coffee," in other words, play for the pros. Juan Eichelberger, formerly of the San Diego Padres, and Kenny Reitz, who played for the Chicago Cubs, are two of her former charges who have risen to greater baseball glory.

But although Williams is proud of her professional ballplayers, she reserves her greatest admiration for those who as adults "help other kids like they were helped. I am pleased when my boys carry

their sportsmanship through their lives."

When asked to comment on the current state of professional baseball, Williams looks disappointed. "A lot of these players are prima donnas," she declares. "They have forgotten what the game is all about." She also rues the fact that high ticket prices make it difficult for many families to take in a professional ball game. Williams herself does not attend most games because of the prohibitive cost.

In fact, she prefers youth leagues to professional baseball. "In our league, all the kids who want to play get a chance at bat," she says. "The kids can enjoy the game more than the pros, because they don't have the same pressure to win."

Williams notes that she has always emphasized to her players the importance of watching their language, being respectful of others, and being good sports. But she also reminds them to "have the best time of their lives. It's more important that

Is Upper Noe On the Road to 'Mean Streets'?

New Beat Cop Assigned to Area

By Steve Steinberg

Ask people in upper Noe Valley what they're hothotter by these days, and they'll tell you: groups of teenagers and young adults hanging around the street corners.

Residents may not be able to point to specific instances of crime or vandalism committed by these youths, but they'll say a mood of intimidation has settled in around the two-square-block area between 29th and 30th and Sanchez and Church streets.

"I feel much less safe," confided one Day Street resident, who wished to remain unidentified. She says she is somewhat fearful and "really angry" about the number of teenagers she sees standing around the local Ma and Pa stores and outside the Upper Noe Recreation Center bordering Day, Sanchez, and 30th streets.

She also claims that drug dealers congregate in and near the park. "You don't have to be a mental giant to figure out what's going on. People drive up in cars, park by the rec center and on adjacent streets, smoke dope, and wait for others to come along and get in and buy drugs," she said.

The Day Street resident admits she hasn't actually seen drugs passed back and forth, but says she has definitely seen money change hands. She and her neighbors also maintain that the pay phones on the street corners are being used for drug transactions.

Other residents are upset because their

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U.P.S. Driver Bob Kim

24th Street Loves a Man In a Uniform

By Jane Underwood

When Bob Kim arrives at the *Noe Valley Voice* office for his scheduled interview, my normally wary, barky dog remains unusually quiet for a moment, then rushes out from under the desk, heading straight for Kim at breakneck speed. I attempt to call her off, but it's too late: she throws herself at him in an uncontrolled frenzy of tail-wagging and hand-licking. Kim, who doesn't seem the least bit annoyed, approaches me with a friendly smile, and takes a seat. My dog plops her head in his lap, and remains by his side for the duration of the interview.

Kim notes that he has always had "a rapport with animals," which is a real plus for someone who has been Noe Valley's "U.P.S. man" for the last 16 years,



For the past 16 years, Bob Kim has been U.P.S.'s key man on and around 24th Street. PHOTO BY LORENE WARWICK

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The Lifestyle of a Teacher

Editor:

I want to thank Geraldine Lanier and Leigh Escobedo for writing (and the *Voice* for publishing) the April articles on our local schools. It's pretty rare to see reporting about schools—and particularly about teachers—that is so close to actuality.

I'd like to remind folks that teachers' first priority is students. It is so much a priority that the profession has suffered atrocious "p.r.," frighteningly low salaries, humiliations (such as paying for Xerox paper), and tragedy in human life as so-called "specialty" programs such as art, music, computers, and sports disappear from the lives of students, who need them in order to learn how to learn.

Leigh Escobedo raises several particularly good points. Buena Vista and Horace Mann are specially constructed communities for schooling. However, every school has a community personality. Not every child is an intellectual. Not every teacher is an intellectual. Nor should they all be.

As I flip through the *Voice*, the reasons for this are clear: the diversity of talent in this community is what makes this part of the big city such a great place to live and work.

I try to remember this every time that I walk into a classroom: I am doing this thing—teaching—because when I was a kid, folks thought that it was important to educate kids, and someone took the time to give me an interest in and a respect for that notion.

Finally, I'd like to point out that teaching is a lifestyle as well as a profession. It leaves little time for lobbying school boards. There is a certain amount of professional danger in publicly airing educational problems, and solutions. Teacher-bashing tends to make the danger more clear and present—sometimes to the point of abridging constitutional rights.

I've been a "new" teacher for five years. I can't yet afford to live alone. My car is 21 years old. I "prep" 19 courses per week and teach 32 classes, all overcrowded. If these budget cuts go through, I will be forced to go back to working in business because my son needs money for college.

Children have a right to learn. Teachers should have a right to teach. Both should be more highly regarded than is presently the case.

Ann Patterson
Valley Street

A Vote for Crime News

Editor:

It's with unusual interest that I've been following the debate in your *Letters* section on crime reporting.

Noe Valley doesn't have invisible shields protecting it from the greater city (read: urban) machinations.

I am a native San Franciscan. I have lived in Noe Valley for 16 years. My home has been in my family for 35 years.

On Aug. 15, I was shot while being mugged at my house. It was 11:15 p.m. My 10-year-old called 911 (handled it like a champ).

This has been a severe trauma for me, and for all the members of my family.

If printed words can save anyone from this ordeal, it is well worth it. Peace.

Name withheld by request

LETTERS 29¢

April Fool's Joke Not Funny

Editor:

I rarely read the *Voice*, but this month I found myself with some time to spare and nothing else to read. I was as bored as I expected to be until I discovered the April Fool's story titled "Panhandler Aces Top Job." This article was the most blatant piece of bigotry I have read in years.

What right does the *Voice* have to make fun of people because they are homeless, unemployed, and hungry? Gary the panhandler is a human being who deserves the same amount of dignity and respect as any other human being, regardless of his economic status.

Some years ago, I was unemployed and would have been homeless had I not had friends who took me in until I found work. Not everyone is that lucky. Begging for money does not build self-esteem. Wearing dirty, tattered clothes and being able to keep oneself clean also lowers one's self-esteem even more, and makes one vulnerable to emotional pain.

The garbage that the *Noe Valley Voice* printed deliberately singled out Gary, rubbing salt into his wounds. It also did a great disservice to all homeless people. I am unaware of anyone on this planet who deserves to be treated as badly as Gary has been treated. I think that anyone who finds humor in denying people dignity and respect is a very sick individual.

Instead of denigrating an individual who is homeless, why not expend the same energy and effort in ending homelessness? I'm sure that both Noe Valley and the *Voice* would benefit if the people responsible for this article volunteered to help the homeless. If, however, they feel that they must continue their literary endeavors, perhaps they could spearhead a publicity campaign that covers the plight of the homeless. They might begin by encouraging local elected officials to find a solution to the homeless problem.

The people responsible for the April Fool's section owe an apology to Gary and to the people of Noe Valley. It is people like the writers of this article that make me ashamed to be a human being.

Gary Smith
Elizabeth Street

Editor's reply: The Voice apologizes if the "Top Job" spoof, which announced that Noe Valley's most visible street person had been elected president of the merchants association, was misinterpreted as an attack on the homeless. Although it was included along with a number of equally outrageous news items (e.g., "Animal Company Now Animal Owned," "Highrise Condom Project to Go Up," and "Police Go on Pogo Patrol"), it was inspired by an actual incident: Gary the panhandler had been observed making change for a 24th Street merchant.

Gary's views—and the many sides to both the panhandling and homeless issues—have been covered in the Voice at length over the past year. Articles include "Homelessness on the Home Front," "Living on the Street: One Homeless Person's Perspective," which is Gary's first-

person account (April 1990), "Looking for Places to Put Your Spare Change?" (July–August 1990), "The Bare Facts on Homelessness," and "More Homeless = More Begging = More Crime, or Does It?" (September 1990). Also, the Letters section of virtually every issue since April of last year has contained some comment on the situation. (The Voice was even accused of encouraging crime in Noe Valley by allowing Gary to air his views in the paper!)

Past issues of the Voice are available for your perusal at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St.

Noe Courts Thank-you Note

Editor: We would like to thank all the participants, contributors, and spectators for the wonderful turnout (over 250 people) at the benefit Easter egg hunt we had in order to raise money for the new children's jungle gym and other renovations at Noe Courts. The showing was great, and the weather was even better!

This one-hour event demanded quite a bit of support from local merchants and neighbors, and we would like to express our gratitude to all the contributors listed below:

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Noe Valley Voice
The San Francisco Independent
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Walgreen's
The Treat Stop
Mission Police Station
San Francisco Recreation and Park Department
Hoffman Street Fire Department
Twin Peaks Properties
Peek-A-Boutique
St. Philip's School
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One Stop Party Shop
Cradle of the Sun
Alvarado School
Real Food Company
See's Candy

Also, a special thanks to the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, which recently donated \$1,000, and to club secretary Fred Methner, who personally donated another \$1,000 to the cause.

So far, we have received over \$3,000, and are continuing our fundraising effort. Remember, all donations are tax-deductible and should be made payable to the Friends of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department and earmarked for Noe Courts.

Again, thank you for your contributions. They help make Noe Valley the pleasant neighborhood it is today. If you have any questions, please call us at 824-6330.

Erica Green and Richard Fontana
Fundraiser coordinators
Mullins & Company
700 Diamond St.
San Francisco, CA 94114



Peace Symbol's Background

Editor:

Greg Carlisle's letter in your March issue on the origins of the peace sign was most interesting. To my knowledge the full-blown symbol first appeared circa 1957 at a "Ban the Bomb" march on a nuclear weapons plant at Aldermaston, England, and for a while thereafter it was known as the Aldermaston symbol. It started as a stylized superimposition of the semaphore codes for the letters N and D, standing for Nuclear Disarmament.

The symbol, originally in white, was applied to black discs and carried aloft on sticks, like the crucifixes and icons carried aloft by religious pilgrims. Once the white-on-black graphics were reproduced by newspapers and television, they attracted quick recognition.

Ban the Bomb also attracted notoriety, if not respectability, stemming from the antics of Lord Bertrand Russell, the senescent ex-intellectual who announced "we'll all be dead in a week!" at every opportunity. Time proved him wrong; the Cold War stayed frosty.

The N.D. symbol was later adopted by the early anti-Vietnam War demonstrators, who expanded its meaning to express objection to war in general.

The Mercedes emblem is entirely unrelated. It is a trident, and was created early in this century to represent rays of light radiating from a star.

Can anyone supply further background information?

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Senior Lunch Program Threatened

By Grace D'Anca

A group of Noe Valley seniors is suffering from indigestion.

That's because the San Francisco Commission on Aging (COA) has recommended that the city cut the \$8,500 annual salary for the meal site manager at the Noe Valley Senior Center, in the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St.

If the COA's recommendation is okayed by the mayor and passed by the Board of Supervisors in June, it would mean a July closure of the only central neighborhood program that serves hot meals and provides bingo games, lectures, and other activities for approximately 25 Noe Valley seniors each weekday.

According to the commission, the Noe Valley lunch program—along with three other sites in the Crocker-Amazon, Bayview-Hunter's Point, and Richmond districts—was put on the chopping block because of the small number of seniors who attend relative to other nutrition sites in the city, which typically serve 100 to 200 people a day. Noe Valley was also targeted because of the low minority representation among its 75 regular attendees.

The COA has, however, budgeted for the Noe Valley meals to be served at Pacific Presbyterian Medical Center's senior nutrition site a dozen blocks away at 225 30th St. (near Dolores). But Noe Valley Senior Center staff and participants think it is unlikely that many of the neighborhood's seniors will travel to 30th Street or to the COA's other suggested alternative, the Diamond Street Senior Center, 1700 Diamond St., over the hill in Eureka Valley. Both sites serve approximately 100 meals per day and offer a full range of activities.

"We're raising a protest to keep the program in our own neighborhood," says Jersey Street resident Marjorie Stern, 72, a retired teacher and COA advisory council member. "If our center gets closed now, it will be hard to start it up again. It serves as a point of entry to find out about any problems the participants may be having."

Stern, Miriam Blaustein, Boyd Rip-



The senior lunch and activities program at the Noe Valley Ministry has been jeopardized by the proposed withdrawal of city funding.

pey, and a number of other Noe Valley Senior Center members have launched a leafleting, petitioning, and letter-writing campaign urging Mayor Art Agnos and the Board of Supervisors to keep the program going and site manager Julia Johnson on board.



Meal site manager Julia Johnson is worried that if the Noe Valley Senior Center's daily lunch program is cut, older residents will "just stay home alone and isolated."

PHOTOS BY BEVERLY THARP

Johnson, who has worked at the center since 1986, is staunchly behind their efforts. "I want to see the program stay open in the neighborhood," she says. "I'm afraid a lot of the people won't go to other programs, and they'll just stay home alone and isolated."

Speaking in the COA's defense, Executive Director Joyce Ream, a Eureka Valley resident, said the move to close the Noe Valley and other small nutrition sites was a "painful decision." But she pointed out that San Francisco's senior population had risen by almost 40,000 in the past four years, while funding had remained static. This year her office received over \$12 million in requests for assistance, with only \$9.75 million available in its budget.

Since 1983, the Noe Valley Senior Center has been in operation five days a week from noon to 3 p.m., serving lunch costing seniors \$1.25 per meal, along with social and recreational activities.

"It's not so much the food. It's the comradeship that's important here," said Sophie Tschopp, 85, a Jersey Street resident for 50 years. "Many people who come here are closer than their families because they see their friends here more often."

Meals for the Ministry program, as well as the site manager position in question, are administered through Pacific Presbyterian Medical Center's 30th Street Senior Center. But the program's custodial and activities services are pro-

vided by a non-profit organization called Golden Gate Senior Services.

Golden Gate's director, Nick Lederer, said last month that he could continue to provide his portion of the services with no increase in costs, but only if there's a meal provider too.

"We can keep the site open with the budget we have," Lederer said. "If Noe Valley closes, it would be a real hardship for about a third of the 75 regulars who are too frail to go to the 30th or Diamond Street centers. And with the \$70,000 in kitchen renovations we just did last year [at the Ministry] through a grant from the Mayor's Office of Community Development, we're able to follow the COA plan to get away from using paper and styrofoam because we have the proper dishwasher."

Lederer urges Noe Valley residents who are interested in lobbying to save the Noe Valley Senior Center to write Mayor Art Agnos and Supervisor Jim Gonzalez, Finance Committee chair, both at City Hall, San Francisco, CA 94102. Supporters can also contact Lederer at Golden Gate Senior Services, 752-6444, or Miriam Blaustein at 648-0992. □

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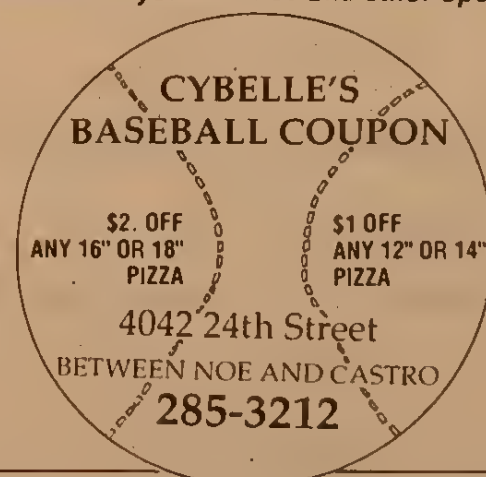
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24th Street's Man in the Van

Continued from Page 1

serving the area between Castro and Church, and 18th and 25th streets. (This route was recently shortened to include only the area between 22nd and 24th.) His easygoing personality is undoubtedly the key to this rapport, which he has established not only with neighborhood canines, but also with the local humans.

"I've come to know the families in Noe Valley," he comments matter-of-factly. "I've seen generations born and grow up. And that's why I stay here, because of the closeness I've built with my customers."

Kim, 41, moved to the Bay Area from Hawaii when he was 9, and has been working for United Parcel Service since he was 18. What began as a part-time job (he put himself through college, and has a degree in photography) eventually turned into a full-time career.

When he first started, Kim says, he did "almost any job they have inside the U.P.S. building," from loading and unloading, to sorting packages from "the Bay Area to Southern California." Since he worked most often at night, he spent his days "surf-fishing for salmon and striped bass, playing touch football with the guys, and doing photography portraits for friends and family."

When his part-time work options dried up, however, and as his family obligations burgeoned (he almost single-handedly raised a son and a daughter, from the ages of 5 and 9, with help from his parents), Kim switched over to full-time driving, and says he's never regretted the change. "I like being outdoors, and I like meeting people."

Sure, he admits, sometimes jumping in and out of a truck all day, lifting boxes weighing up to 70 pounds, can be a little tiring ("I usually fall asleep when I'm eating my dinner"), but he's often rewarded by the appreciation he gets from customers, including several 24th Street businesses that have come to rely on his daily, dependable service. At Christmas time, for instance, Kim is often the recipient of cards and cookies, and on hot summer days, thoughtful employees, like those at Joshua Simon, may offer him ice cream from Double Rainbow, or cold drinks.

Joshua Simon manager Barbara Jones is unabashedly fond of Kim. "We love Bob," she says. "He's such an integral part of the street, and of Noe Valley. And he's as conscientious as can be. It's not just, 'When is U.P.S. coming today?', it's 'When is Bob coming?'"

Across the street from Joshua Simon, at Common Scents, Linda Ramey echoes Jones's sentiment. "Bob's terrific," she

says. "There's never been anything we've asked him to do that he hasn't cheerfully done. For example, if we aren't ready with an outgoing package, he'll make a second trip back by to pick it up. It's nice to know, that with something as important to a business as shipping and receiving, there's someone we can really count on."

At Cover to Cover bookstore, the whole crew avows that Bob is "great, dependable, and laid-back." Plus, adds employee T Minot, they like that he's "part of the dragon in the annual Chinese New Year's celebration."

Kim's favorite customers, he says, are indeed the regulars, working in stores on 24th. Any gripes he has (which are few and far between) are usually a result of the occasional residential clients "who are under the common misconception that U.P.S. drivers have all day to deliver. Like the person who sticks his head out the window and says, 'Who is it for? What is it? Who's it from? I don't remember ordering it.' You know, 20 questions, even if it's raining!"

But all in all, Kim takes his more trying encounters with a grin and a grain of salt. "You can't prejudge people," he observes, "and it helps to be low-key, because of the way the economy is, and what's going on in the world. A person may be happy to see you, or they may not be happy to see you. Or they may have changed their mind about a delivery. Or, sometimes, you may be bringing them the highest joy in their life, something they've been waiting for."

However he's treated, Kim says, he tries "to stay even-keeled—not to take it personally. If someone's upset because something's late, you have to be calm and not ruffle their feathers. Sometimes people get confused because they don't know much about how U.P.S. works, like where we deliver or the types of packages we do carry."

"For example, a lot of people don't know that we will pick up things at their homes. It's the same with air service, too—some people don't realize that we fly packages to a lot of places."

Kim's equanimity also favorably affects his performance on the road, and he was recently recognized by U.P.S. for having completed 10 years of driving without any accidents.

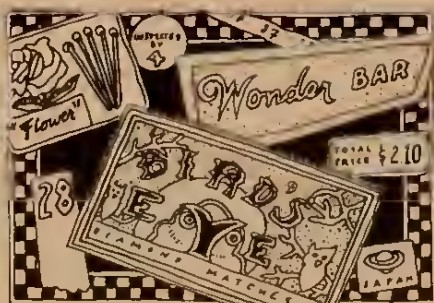
Does he ever think about that day when he'll hang up the old brown uniform and move on to a greener, less exhausting pasture?

"I'll be a U.P.S. driver as long as I physically can," he replies. And when he can't, he adds, he'll trade in the brown uniform for the one worn by San Francisco's part-time police reservists.

"I've spent 3½ years completing the state-certified course for the police reserve [an all-volunteer force]," he explains, "and they're doing the background investigation on me now."

"Being in the reserve," he reflects, "is a community service, a way of paying back to the city what I've gotten out of it. And God knows, the city needs all the help it can get."

But for now, a good-sized parcel of people in the neighborhood will continue to count on Kim to deliver the goods. □



Mean Streets

Continued from Page 1

kids no longer feel comfortable going to the recreation center's playground. "My son doesn't like to play at the park because of harassment" from other teenagers, says Sanchez Street resident Margy Baran.

"He doesn't want to hang out in the park even though it's only a half block from our house because the scene is unpleasant," Baran said. The "scene," she pointed out, involves teens and adults drinking, fighting, yelling obscenities, and partying until dawn.

Some neighbors have been the victim of actual crimes in the area. Marc Volkman, who lives on 29th Street between Noe and Sanchez, says his jeep was stolen from in front of his house and taken for a joy ride. When he got it back, it needed \$12,000 worth of repairs. Others report instances of tire-slashing and window-smashing.

In one dramatic incident, on April 5, a group of five teenagers—three boys and two girls—walked down 29th Street between Church and Sanchez, randomly breaking windows. By the time they finished, nine residential and commercial buildings had sustained damage. Fortunately, several residents saw them in the act, called police, and then gave chase themselves. The juveniles were all caught, and cited by police and released.

One of those who led the chase, a 29th Street resident who preferred not to give her name, said the teens had been drinking, and that only one of the five, a girl, actually lived in Noe Valley. The rest had come to the neighborhood to visit the girl, and had proceeded on several occasions to loiter and cause trouble, she said. She added that she and her neighbors planned to ask juvenile authorities for a "stay-away order" to prevent the group from coming back. They also intended to demand restitution and community service from the teenagers.

According to Gerri Arellano, who lives on nearby Whitney Street, the teenagers in the April 5 incident are not the only ones coming from outside the area to cause mischief in upper Noe Valley. "It's also the kids who transfer from the 24-Divisadero bus," who are hassling people in the neighborhood, she said.

Some residents blame the parents of these teen loiterers for not properly supervising their children and allowing them to "hang out" and cause trouble.

"Kids are not getting what they need," said Geoff Hoyle, a local resident whose 14-year-old son was nudged and robbed by some other youngsters near St. Paul's Market on Sanchez Street in early April.

Although the assailants in this incident were younger than most of those causing problems in the neighborhood, the fact that they would commit a crime of this sort had Hoyle "very surprised and very angry."

Hoyle and his son were eventually able to track down the kids and make them return some of the money. But he said he was still concerned about the "unsavory element" that had crept into the neighborhood over the past year.

Local businesses have also been hurt by the influx of aimless teens and young adults.

At Stellings Market, at the corner of 29th and Church, owner Cecilia DeLeon says teenagers hanging out in the vicinity often "yell and intimidate the customers," sometimes discouraging them from en-

tering her store. They also stand around drinking beer, even though they are clearly "not of drinkable age," she said, having circumvented the age limit by sending an older friend in to buy beer.

On several occasions, DeLeon said, she has called the police, but the kids quickly disperse, only to return once the police have left the area.

Several residents have pointed fingers at the Upper Noe Recreation Center, accusing its staff of permitting a disreputable crowd to hang out at the park. Some even maintain that the park had an unofficial policy of allowing people to drink in the so-called "beer garden"—a fenced-off area behind the gym on Sanchez Street—in exchange for not drinking in or trashing up the rest of the park.

In the center's defense, park director Marcus Steinback said he would "have to be a police officer" to keep tabs on everyone entering the park. He added, however, that if someone creates a disturbance, he and the staff ask them to leave.

Steinback confirmed that people formerly used the fenced-in area on Sanchez (which he called the "designated area") as a meeting and drinking spot, but he denied that there ever was any sort of agreement permitting drinking there. He also pointed out that carousers usually climbed over the fence and into the park after the recreation center staff had left for the evening.

Several months ago, in response to neighbors' complaints, Steinback said, the police began to crack down on drinking in the park, and the "designated area" has since been abandoned. Now, he says, it is kept locked up.

As for the issue of drugs, Steinback agrees that "something is probably going on" in or around the park. After 10 years of working at Upper Noe, Steinback says, "I'm not naive. People target these recreation centers [for drug-dealing]." He's seen people enter the park with beepers and use the park pay phone extensively—actions that are sure indicators of drug activity.

But, overall, he maintains, "this park is not as bad as some," and there is little he and his staff can do, except call the police or ask those who create problems to leave. His main concern, he says, is to keep unruly types away from the gym and the children's play area.

According to area residents, the neighborhood experienced its worst problems with teens and young adults last summer and fall. The situation became so bad, neighbors say, that several blocks reactivated SAFE groups or formed neighborhood watch committees.

Local groups applied pressure on police to patrol the area more frequently and break up groups of loiterers. According to some residents, the increased police presence, coupled with the onset of winter, resulted in a decrease in unruly behavior among teens. Now, however, with the approach of warmer weather, residents are beginning to see clusters of teens returning, along with an upsurge in rowdy activity.

Local police seem to confirm what the neighbors have been saying. According to Sergeant Ann Cazahous of the Ingleside Police Station, which has jurisdiction over the area, the crime rate has been fairly low since the first of the year, with only a few car thefts and break-ins reported.

However, she said, of some 150 calls police have fielded from residents since January, close to half have involved juvenile complaints, including reports of suspicious persons and those disturbing the peace. "We are aware of [the problem]," Cazahous said.

The good news for residents, she added, however, is that a local beat officer from the Ingleside Station will soon be assigned to the area. Cazahous, who is the supervisor of the Community Police Officer Program (CPOP) at Ingleside, says she expects the beat officer to be on duty by May 20.

Cazahous is optimistic about what will happen then. "I am anticipating the problem [with juveniles] to be non-existent once the CPOP officer is assigned."

Residents can only hope she is right. □

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Continued from Page 1

they have fun than that they win."

In the past few years, Parkinson's disease has forced Williams to slow down. "It's very frustrating that I can't depend on my body because of Parkinson's," she says with regret.

But Williams is a fighter who will not let the illness send her into a slump. Last year, when the trembling in her right hand finally prevented her from pitching anymore, she recruited two of the team mothers to coach, and moved into the manager slot.

According to coach Susan Heller, Williams has attained the status of "coach emeritus," but can still be found pacing the sidelines at Glen Park on any given Wednesday or Sunday, when one of her two pee-wee teams, the Thunderbolts or the Shooting Stars, takes to the field.

The list of honors Williams has received is as long and as powerful as a Will Clark line drive down center field. She has been profiled by many local newspapers and television stations, and *The Joan Rivers Show* even flew her to New York for a guest spot. She also threw out the first ball in the 1989 Bay Bridge series, when the Giants played the A's.

Williams was the first woman ever to be honored by the U.S. Amateur Baseball Association, as "Coach of the Year" in 1988. California PAL named her "Woman Coach of the Year" for 1989, and the National Police Athletic League named her "Volunteer Woman Coach of the Year" in 1990.

And on a sunny Saturday in April, a multi-generational group of Thelma Williams fans gathered in Glen Park—amidst grilled hot dogs, sodas, and a cake shaped like a baseball diamond—to dedicate the park's playing field to her. The newly-christened "Thelma Williams Dia-



Last year Thelma Williams hired two mothers as coaches and graduated to the manager position, but she's the kind of hands-on manager who can't stay out of the dugout. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

mond" now has a plaque mounted on its backstop honoring Williams' "continuous devoted service to the youth of San Francisco for the past four decades."

During the ceremony, 36 "pee-wees" from the teams Williams now manages each handed her a rose, to represent the number of years she has coached.

Ron Eckersley, of the Police Athletic League, and John LaTourneau, of Rec and Park, talked about her dedication to the game ("Even the kids she coached *against* were inspired by her," remarked LaTourneau), and speaker after speaker lauded Williams.

Former Police Chief Frank Jordan said, "Thelma Williams is a diamond. She represents what every neighborhood should

have: someone who cares about the community."

Harley Augustino, a 12-year-old Elizabeth Street resident who played for Williams for three years, recalled that "it's hard when you're little and starting baseball. Coach Williams got us through. We're all pretty good players now, and she gets a lot of credit."

Another former pee-wee in attendance was Tom Taylor, 38, a San Francisco police officer who worked at Ingleside Station for many years. On his frequent patrols through Glen Park, he said, "I would see Mrs. Williams walking down the hill carrying all of the equipment. I gave her a ride in the patrol car more times than I can remember!"

Taylor played for Williams on the 1964 PAL Jaguars, and on other PAL teams from 1966 to 1970. "She had an incredible amount of energy. She never got mad at us, and she always had a smile on her face," he remembered.

"Other than getting older, she hasn't changed at all. She still loves the game and the kids. Look at her now—she's trying to get us all off the field so the kids can start their next game!"

In her soft-spoken voice, Williams thanked everyone for "honoring me for something I enjoyed, something I loved doing every day."

And then—just as expected—it was let's cut the bluff and "play ball!" □

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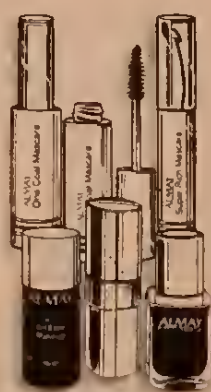
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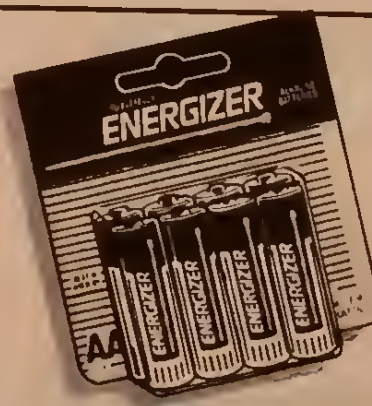
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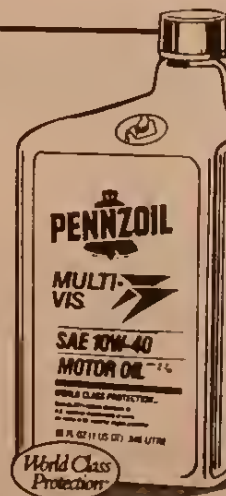
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Racial Epithets Carved on 24th Street Shop Door

By Steve Steinberg

A Noe Valley merchant has discovered firsthand the meaning of racism after having symbols of hatred carved on his door.

Luins Williams, the owner of Uptown News, the magazine store near the corner of 24th and Sanchez streets, said last month that in two separate incidents in early March a swastika and the words "black nigger" were carved into the front door of his shop.

Williams, who is African-American, said he had "no idea" why the door was defaced nor who might have done it. "It came out of nowhere," he said.

According to Williams, the first incident (in which the words were carved) occurred on a Friday night and was discovered the next day by an employee. He said the employee, a high school student, became extremely upset upon seeing the racist graffiti. The vandals struck again about a week later, Williams said.

Williams, who has owned Uptown News since 1987, said he employs individuals of various races and that he has never had a racial problem in connection with his business. He also noted that a variety of people from different racial and ethnic backgrounds patronize his store. He add-



Shopkeeper Luins Williams is disturbed by the racist graffiti that was carved on the door of Uptown News last month. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

ed that he was particularly "taken aback that this kind of thing could happen in this neighborhood."

Williams could not recall any specific incident or argument that had preceded the assault on his business and which might have prompted it. He believes that some person or group decided to display their disapproval of African-Americans owning businesses in Noe Valley.

As of mid-April, Williams had not notified the police, since he felt there was nothing they could do, he said.

According to 24th Street police officer Lois Perillo, the vandalism at Uptown News does not signal a sudden upswing in racially motivated crimes in the neighborhood. She said that as far as she knew,

there had been no other recent crimes of this nature in the Noe Valley area.

Perillo pointed out, however, that in the past year, hate crimes have become a special concern of the San Francisco Police Department and that the force has set up a hate crimes unit to investigate incidents involving race or religion. (The public should call the unit at 553-1133 to report this type of criminal activity. All hate crime reports will be relayed to the F.B.I. in Washington, D.C., Perillo said.)

Obviously, Williams hopes that neither he nor his business will be the target of this kind of attack again. But for the time being, he plans to leave the carvings on his door—as a "statement" that it can indeed happen here. □

Neighborhood Puts Out Call For Town Hall

By Michele Lynn

Residents interested in making some waves in Noe Valley—while preserving the neighborhood's distinctive character—are invited to help chart the future at a Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 7 p.m., at James Lick Middle School, located at the corner of Noe and 25th streets.

The meeting is being co-sponsored by Friends of Noe Valley, the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, and Upper Noe Neighbors—the first time these groups have all worked together.

Miriam Blaustein, an active member of Friends of Noe Valley, says the Town Hall will provide a forum for neighbors to raise concerns about the quality of life in Noe Valley and ways to improve it.

"In an era of fiscal constraints and cut-backs, neighborhoods have to join together to provide services and improvements," she says.

According to Town Hall organizers, the most prominent neighborhood concerns are litter, crime, and increasing traffic and congestion, both on 24th Street and other thoroughfares. A recent hit-and-run accident involving a child on Clipper Street reinforced residents' concerns for their children's safety.

Addressing these issues will be a number of speakers, including Gayle Orr-Smith, the city's deputy mayor for public safety; Police Captain John Newlin of Mission Station; Lois Perillo, Noe Valley's bicycle-riding community police officer; and John Roumbanis, superintendent of street cleaning for the Department of Public Works. In addition, representatives from the Board of Supervisors, Board of Education, and the Department of Parking and Traffic will be on hand.

Jean Amos, a past president of Friends of Noe Valley, will chair the meeting, allowing each speaker a five-minute presentation and time for questions from the audience. Following the presentations, participants will set up committees, focusing on issues of mutual concern.

"It's important for everyone who cares about Noe Valley to attend this meeting," says Blaustein, "so we can figure out ways to work together to make it an even better place to live and work." □

Watch out for Door-to-door Con Games

Local police are warning the public to be on the lookout for con artists posing as neighbors and asking for money to help cover an emergency.

According to community police officer Lois Perillo, in a recent Noe Valley incident, a man knocked on a resident's door and said he had \$10, but urgently needed another \$10 in order to buy baby formula.

A similar type of con, which also occurred in Noe Valley, Perillo said, involved a stranger coming to the door and telling the resident that he was their neighbor and had been locked out. The person then asked for \$13.85 to pay the locksmith.

Perillo noted that the con artists—whom she described as males in their 20s and 30s—are often very specific as to the amount of money they need, so as to allay suspicion. The individuals may also claim they were sent for money by "your neighbor" at such and such an address, she said. Other plays include asking for money to get a car out of tow.

Perillo urged residents to get more information about any so-called emergency and to verify a person's identity before giving them money or even opening the door, especially at night.

If you suspect someone of committing this kind of fraud, call the police fraud unit at 553-1521. □

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Residents Seek Funds for Dog Patches

By Catherine Lewis

Nobody likes to talk about dog-doo, but with the growing number of urban pets in Noe Valley, it can be a problem. Fortunately, the Upper Noe Neighbors—undaunted by the malodorousness of the issue—are tackling it head-on and are hoping to get some help from the city.

The residents' group—which represents the area between 28th and 30th streets and Dolores and Diamond, as well as anyone within a three-block radius—has applied for a \$23,000 grant from San Francisco's Neighborhood Beautification Fund. The money would go toward three neighborhood improvement projects, including the establishment of designated "dog patches."

Upper Noe Neighbors co-chair Janice Gendreau says the dog patches would be located in existing street medians, and would consist of strips of shrubs planted in 8 to 10 inches of mulch. After leading their pooch to the plot, dog owners could turn the droppings into the mulch, using a small shovel that would be chained to the site.

The group has proposed the establishment of 15 such sites—including several along Dolores Street—so that all Upper Noe residents would have one within two blocks of home.

"We saw a photo of something similar in Europe," Gendreau said. "So we amended it a little and decided to try it here. The Rec and Park people are already excited about it." One of the reasons she thinks city officials will like the idea is that it fits in with the low-maintenance requirement for all new beautification projects.

"With the mulch, nobody is going to have to go out there and clean it up," she said. Approximately \$1,500 has been requested for this part of the project.

Another section of Upper Noe's grant application asks for \$14,000 to build a



Janice Gendreau and other members of Upper Noe Neighbors have applied for city beautification funds to refurbish the path up Billy Goat Hill, situated above the intersection of 30th and Laidley streets. PHOTO BY LORENE WARWICK

trail up Billy Goat Hill. The hill, the base of which is at Laidley and 30th streets, is now almost inaccessible because of its steepness, Gendreau says.

The Upper Noe Neighbors want to plant the hill with drought-resistant shrubbery, and use railroad ties to form a path that neighbors could use to climb the hill. Along with beautifying the area, the plants would also help to prevent erosion.

"We want to make a place that people can use and will enjoy. People living in a city need somewhere that they can get out," Gendreau said. She added that lights would be installed at the site and that an extra bonus would be the expansive view people would get from the top of the hill.

The third prong of the proposal involves designing and displaying decorative street banners to be attached to light poles in the business district along Church Street from Army to 30th.

If the group's grant application is approved, the work on all three projects would be done by volunteers. Gendreau estimates that a total of 960 hours, spread over two years, would be needed to complete the projects.

Joan Lubamersky, who is processing the grants for the city's Chief Administrative Office, says preference points are given to groups such as Upper Noe Neighbors who use volunteer labor. Projects that beautify public property and use innovative ideas are also looked upon favorably.

The highest priority projects, Lubamersky said, are those that make an immediate and visible impact on an area,

"such as cleaning up graffiti."

So far, about \$300,000 has been collected for the beautification fund from city sales tax payments. However, the grant applications already filed total approximately \$500,000. "Unquestionably," Lubamersky said, someone is going to be disappointed.

Final decisions on the 32 applications received by the city are expected to be made by June 1. According to Lubamersky, it is probable that many of the groups will get just some of the money they requested.

"If we get even some of this," said Gendreau, "we'll be really happy." □

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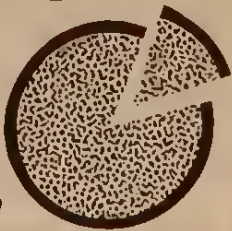
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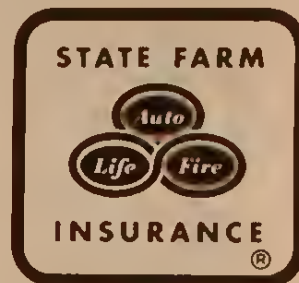
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Community Fights to Keep Park Director

By Geraldine Lanier

On April 9, numerous parents and children from Noe Valley, Bernal Heights, and the Mission District began a crusade to keep Marcus Steinback, director of the Upper Noe Recreation Center for the past 10 years, from being transferred to another location.

Steinhack, who is the park director and sports coach for the playground at Day and Sanchez streets, was recently informed that he had received a long-deserved promotion. However, he was also told that his pay boost would be effective only upon an immediate transfer to Sunset Playground, at 28th Avenue and Lawton Street.

"We as a group don't believe that the Recreation and Park Department's decision was made from the right perspective. It's being made from a point of view complying with their organizational chart," noted Dave Shulman, who assists Steinback with youth sports. Shulman's son Adam, 11, has been playing at Upper Noe for six years.

"They're not taking into consideration what Marcus means to all of us. The community should be consulted when a decision like this is going to be made. We're hoping that Marcus can still retain his promotion, but stay here, where he's developed significant relationships with generations of kids."

"Children feel safe when they know that Marcus is there supervising things," agrees Terry Clarke, mother of Max, 11, who plays on the basketball and baseball teams. "And they've learned self-control from Marcus, who commands a lot of respect through the sports he teaches."

Steinback, 37, has worked at Upper Noe since 1981, when he was appointed



The promotion last month of Marcus Steinback, director of Upper Noe Rec Center, was not good news to the parents and kids who have come to treasure his coaching. Among those who want to keep him from going elsewhere are members of "The Shadow" baseball team, from left: Max Lanier, Xavier Lanier, Brian Kenny, and Maceo Martinet. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

assistant recreation director. Five months after he started, the full-time director left, and Steinback took over as "temporary" full-time director. Since then, he has developed a full-fledged sports program consisting of six adult basketball teams, three kids' basketball teams, several adult softball teams (with over 90 participants), six children's baseball teams, and tennis classes for both children and adults. He coaches two of the kids' teams himself, and is also the tennis instructor.

According to Darlene Kenny, mother of 11-year-old Brian, Steinback also "takes time aside from his coaching responsibilities to make sure that kids who are having problems in school understand how important education and grades are. The spirit and enthusiasm at this park

will deteriorate if Marcus is no longer here."

After Steinback took a promotional exam and interview this spring, he was notified April 8 that he had been promoted and would have to transfer to Sunset Playground within two weeks. He was also informed that even if he turned down the promotion, the Recreation and Park Department couldn't guarantee that he would remain at Upper Noe.

"I said I had unfinished business here, and that there are some things that I want to see out," Steinback said. "I was also sad because I have a lot of friends here, and the kids are great. We've done good things together, not just sports, but community-wise. I don't want to leave, because I have a lot invested here with the kids and the programs. If I go, all the

programs won't be carried out."

Although there are other staff at Upper Noe Recreation Center, their duties are limited. Another full-time director handles the tiny tots program, kids' gym activities, arts and crafts, and cultural events. Three part-time assistant directors have just had their hours reduced.

"Marcus is the only one who really cares about the park," says Brian Kenny. "If he leaves, drugs and stuff will go around and this park will turn to crap."

"Marcus can work with different kinds of people here, including kids who have a lot of problems," said Rebecca Carrillo, mother of 11-year-old Maceo Martinet, a ball player who's known Steinback for seven years. "And if they don't have any place to go, he's very good at keeping them busy."

She and other parents have circulated petitions throughout the neighborhood, urging Rec and Park to keep Steinback where he is. They have also sent a formal letter to Connie O'Conner, president of the Recreation and Park Commission, and copies to Mayor Art Agnos and supervisors Roberta Achtenberg and Harry Britt. Personal letters written by the kids were included.

On April 16, Superintendent of Recreation and Parks Joel Robinson announced that Steinback could stay at Upper Noe until July 1, the end of the fiscal year. At that time, he noted, a final decision would be made, contingent upon re-evaluation of budget and playgrounds planning. Meanwhile, Steinback will retain his promotion status.

"But we still have to keep our cause strong," insisted Carrillo, "because we don't know what will happen after July."

Despite Steinback's shaky situation, his highest concern, he says, is the kids. "I want them to have a positive attitude because this is their neighborhood park. And I want them to keep striving and keep doing the best they can, no matter what happens. Upper Noe playground is here to serve the community, especially the children."

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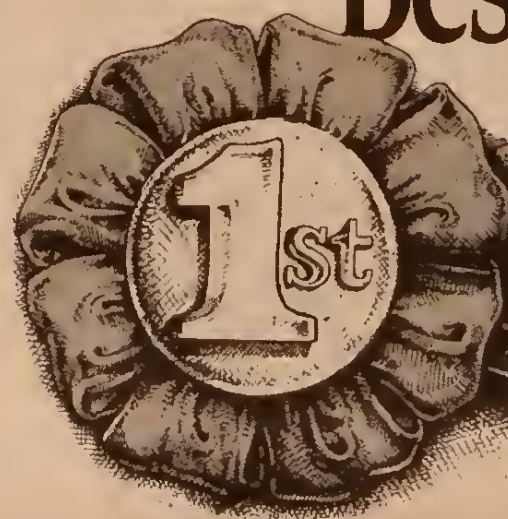
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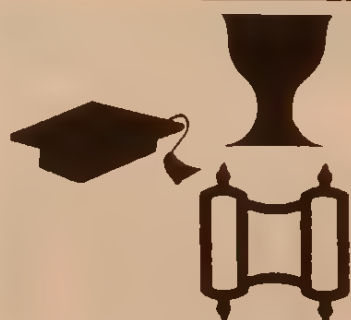
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Buena Vista School Slated To Move to Mission District

By Geraldine Lanier

This September, Buena Vista Alternative School—the Spanish-English elementary school at Noe and 30th streets—may be relocated to its former site in the Mission District. The school would return to 2641 25th St. (off Potrero Avenue), which is the current location of the Mission Education Center.

"The move is planned at this time, which is appropriate since the present [Noe Valley] site is now too small for Buena Vista," says Hal Solin, the city's assistant superintendent for elementary schools. "The remaining factor is trying to find a feasible, workable, balanced place for the Mission Education Center that will please them and meet their program's needs." (Mission Education's current enrollment is 230 students.)

Buena Vista has been in Noe Valley for five years and has an enrollment of 322 students. From 1983 to 1986, its special "Spanish-immersion" program shared the 25th Street building with the Mission Education Center, an elementary school program for immigrant children.

However, as both schools' enrollments and curriculums grew, equal space became a problem. Thus, Buena Vista transferred to the only site available at the time, the former Kate Kennedy School building at 1670 Noe St., which was being used as a children's daycare center.

"We now need more space for our various bilingual classes," notes Jenny Rodriguez, co-president of Buena Vista's PTA. "And if we go into the Mission District, the kids can be more exposed to the environment and the community."

The majority of Buena Vista's staff and parents support the proposed move, Rodriguez said. Nevertheless, there are

those Noe Valley parents who will mourn the loss of a neighborhood school, since proximity was an important factor in their decision to enroll their children at Buena Vista.

"There's a secure feeling of having your child in a school that's right in the neighborhood," said one parent who preferred not to give her name. "My son will stay at Buena Vista after the move, but I'm sorry it's leaving Noe Valley."

Sanchez Street resident Margy Baran, who has a daughter in first grade at Buena Vista, has mixed feelings about the move, but recognizes that the school "must weigh the pros and cons." She is familiar with the Mission District location, since her son attended Buena Vista in the '80s.

"It's a much nicer and bigger facility, which has enough room for a computer lab. And there's a big cafeteria that can double as an auditorium," Baran said. "Also, it's right next to Green Park, and the cultural sights are close by. If we do move, hopefully Noe Valley parents will continue to keep their kids in our school, so we won't lose the rich mix of children."

Jeanne Crawford, mother of a third- and a fifth-grader, has adopted a positive attitude as well. "I live within walking distance of Buena Vista now. But I feel that the Mission District is where we really belong. The spirit of Buena Vista was born there, which is very important. And being at this site will give us more connection with the Hispanic community."

But even more important, she added, is that "we all need to pull together and save our teachers and program. That is so crucial—no matter where we're located."

In fact, Buena Vista School Principal Linda Luevano was so busy trying to



Strolling in Stereo: They're not twins, but this pair (shown crossing Elizabeth Street at Diamond) could still mean double-duty on Mother's Day. PHOTO BY ED BURYN

"save" the teachers and program last month (all San Francisco schools face severe budget cuts) that she preferred not to comment on the proposed move.

According to Assistant Superintendent

Solin, there has been no decision yet regarding the fate of the old Kate Kennedy building at Noe and 30th. And it is also uncertain whether the site's children's center will be reinstated. □

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Let BYLINES be BYLINES

Closer Look At Alvarado

By Mari Beta and Mary Wikstrom

There seems to be so much bad news these days about the public school system: budget cuts, frustrated teachers, questionable academic performance, fed-up administrators, and more budget cuts. In light of such negative publicity, why would any responsible parent choose to send their child to a public school? Why not do what so many others have done: scrimp and save for the tuition, then fight and negotiate your way into a private school?

We two parents have asked ourselves that question a lot over the past few months, as we toured public and private schools in search of the "right" kindergarten for our children. During those visits, we ran into a number of other Noe Valley parents confronting the same question.

It was amazing to all of us just how complicated it was to send your child to a good elementary school. Not even pre-school selection had prepared us for this! And the most frustrating part of the whole thing was that we all had consciously moved to Noe Valley because it was such a great family neighborhood—we always thought we would just send our kids to the local school. It wasn't until we embarked on the school-search process that we found out that that might not be such a good idea—at least not based on the prevailing opinion of our local school, Alvarado, on Douglass Street. If we believed the rumors, Alvarado had the lowest academic standards in the city, offered absolutely no arts program, and was a school everyone was trying to avoid.

We are not quite sure why we decided to take a closer look at Alvarado. Maybe it was a misplaced sense of social responsibility. But the important thing is that once we started digging, we were very pleasantly surprised by what we discovered. Alvarado might be the "right" school after all.

So, what did we learn?

- Some parents have actually turned down slots at alternative and private schools so they could send their children to Alvarado. And, in retrospect, they were comfortable that they had made the right choice.

"It wasn't a hard decision," says Shelley Bothwell, a mother of a 10- and 7-year-old who both attend Alvarado. "I was strongly attracted to the smaller class size initially [about 23 students in 1990]. Now I know both the teachers and the programs, and I'm sure my children are getting a quality education. I don't think they can get a better education at any school in the city."

Bothwell also pointed out that Alvarado offers a motor skills program in kindergarten and first grade, and a science program for all students. It's also one of the six schools that takes part in the "Event of the Year," a special performance sponsored by the California Arts



Face-painting, mask-making, and a faculty-student kickball game were part of the festivities at Alvarado School's second annual Spring Festival, held April 20. PHOTOS BY BEVERLY THARP

Foundation.

Lois Salisbury is another local parent whose daughter had been accepted at an alternative school but who decided to attend Alvarado. "I was looking for an overall atmosphere for my child—one that was both socially supportive and academically challenging," she told us. "I saw both at Alvarado."

Salisbury has been so pleased with her oldest child's experience with the school

has been very supportive of the GATE [Gifted And Talented Education] program, and makes sure all interested parents and students have a chance to participate."

She added that the school had made a number of curriculum changes geared toward ensuring that students have the skills they need to take state achievement tests. For example, the phonics program is now scheduled to be completed by the end of the first grade, instead of at the

have to enjoy the experience. "Vince Matthews has made a personal commitment to making sure that the school environment supports the learning process," says Carmody. "And we see the results in our kids' attitudes. They like going to school, and that shows in their academic performance."

Alvarado has also made some real progress in resolving discipline issues—a problem that plagues all schools. Notes Bothwell, "Vince has instituted a number of changes, like a morning assembly for all students, teachers, and parents. It's a chance for the school to connect, and talk about what's going on in the various classrooms, special projects, things like that."

- The parents are involved—and welcome! Many parents are on the school's advisory council, working with the administration and the faculty to resolve policy issues dealing with curriculum and other programs.

"Parents are also welcome in the classroom," adds Irene Carter, a parent and volunteer coordinator. "We have parents who assist with specific class projects, as well as help monitor the playground. Our goal is to match the parents' interest with the school's needs—we've yet to find an interest we couldn't fill!"

Now, do these factors make Alvarado the "absolutely perfect" school for our children? No, of course not. We realize that all San Francisco schools face problems, and that no public school is insulated from the economic ups and downs of the system.

But the appeal of having our children attend a neighborhood school—combined with the option of joining hands with parents who clearly understand what it takes to make a school work—far outweighs the negatives. So we think we'll give Alvarado a try. □

Elizabeth Street resident Mary Wikstrom suggests that parents interested in learning more about Alvarado call Francesca Lewis (647-3609), Wendy Carmody (552-1800), Irene Carter (824-9245), or Lois Salisbury and Bob Smaiko (826-1785). The Alvarado parents will be happy to share their experiences.



Steve Karhu, who was visiting from Wildlife Associates, introduced a reptilian friend to kids at Alvarado School last month.

that she intends to enroll her second child in kindergarten this fall.

- The school is both culturally and racially integrated.

Francesca Lewis, a parent who transferred her child from a private school to Alvarado, says, "One of the major appeals to me about Alvarado was that there were many different cultures represented in the student body. I wanted my child to go to a school that reflected the city in which she lives."

- Alvarado is committed to academic excellence. Says Nancy Rasch-Chahot, mother of a kindergartner and a second-grade student, "Vince Matthews [the principal] has high expectations for everyone who attends the program. He

end of the second grade.

- The teachers seem to care. "It can't be easy being a teacher these days," notes Wendy Carmody, a parent whose 8-year-old son has attended the school since kindergarten and whose daughter will start kindergarten this fall. "But most of the teachers at Alvarado are very committed to their jobs and the kids' development—they both challenge the students and listen to them. My son is very happy there."

Adds Salisbury, "The smaller class sizes are a real asset. They allow the teachers time to get to know the students, and to get involved with them."

- The principal and teachers understand that in order for kids to learn, they

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Just Another Dog Day

By Alexander Clemens

I saw her dog first. It was gorgeous, one of those Dalmatians seemingly full-sprung from the movie, with perfect medallions of black evenly spaced across its coat, a happy dog chasing a well-loved tennis ball across the park at 30th and Church. I didn't turn to see who threw the ball.

My book transfixing me, I only occasionally caught the blur of dog racing by in my peripheral vision. Still, about the 10th time the ball sailed by, the dog abandoned its missile-lock fixation and sauntered over to me to have its ears scratched. Nice enough, I thought, as we checked each other out. Goofy and floppy, it wasn't a drooler, nor was it a jump-all-over-you breed. I turned to the approaching footsteps to congratulate its owner on his or her excellent job of training.

It's difficult to describe her. Any writer, trying to fully convey an image, aims to generate a holistic view. Attempting this of the woman approaching was impossible. If I start with "She had no arms," I leave any further description buried under this overwhelming image.

She was of average height, pretty, with mid-length hair. She had dressed for the first warmish day of the new year in a white blouse and blue jeans, and carried a tan purse slung over one shoulder.

And she had no arms.

I had already located the dog tags, so my vapor-locked brain had a complete question waiting. Somehow, I got it out. "Jester is beautiful. A boy or a girl?"

"She's a girl, and she's old. She's still crazy like a puppy, though." She sat down next to me, and gently and playfully kicked her pet, still sprawled in front of me, dog face grinning in hedonistic pleasure. Jester readjusted herself so she partially lay on her owner's right leg. "I'm Erica."

Having recovered, I introduced myself, and we talked dogs for a while. I don't own one, but my uncle and aunt have a golden retriever I love dearly, so I possess passing familiarity with dog-owner terms like "Alpha dog" and "the wild woogies." We talked about the book I was reading,



Having a Blow-out: Bubbles bring a family together in the sunshine of Glen Park. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

the mysterious bald spots in the grass at the park (we speculated that the recent freeze was the culprit), the fantastic produce store on the corner, and the general state of the world.

It was a fine day, we were chatting easily, my book was temporarily forgotten, but still I felt somehow two-faced. I couldn't get past her disability, but I had resolutely determined that I would not mention it. Why? I couldn't come up with a sensible reason. Maybe she, a smart, 25-ish-year-old, hadn't noticed that she had no arms? Unlikely. Perhaps she was shy, and I'd embarrass her? Implausible—she came to a public park to play with her dog, and was gregarious enough to sit down and introduce herself to a stranger. Would she be offended? Probably not—I wouldn't have been the first ever to comment, and she had undoubtedly compiled a list of stock responses.

Still, as we steered our conversation through the usual range of themes, I steadfastly ignored the tennis players hitting balls, the kid and his grandfather throwing a frisbee back and forth, and anything else that might bring up the subject of arms, or lack thereof. She didn't notice my topical tunnel-vision. At least she didn't notice out loud.

For years I have been taught that the physically disabled are regular people with a few more limitations than most of us have. They may or may not need assistance with certain tasks, but as people are remarkably adaptive to their environment, disabled folks work very hard to

get good at doing what they need to do. They rarely need special treatment, and I understand that it's inappropriate and insulting to assume that a disabled person automatically needs help. So, as a matter of personal policy, I don't give aid until I'm asked. This time, however, I realized that I was going further than that, and by not talking about her arms, disregarding the reality of the situation.

Jester stirred, catching a scent, and wrenched herself away to her feet. She raced across the softball diamond to greet a newly arrived dachshund, and they ingloriously tangled, an oddly matched and graceless pile of churning dog flesh.

The dogfight toppled my precariously balanced conversational equilibrium. "Will she be okay? I could go get her," I said anxiously. Erica raised an eyebrow. "She's my dog, Alex. I can take care of her." She eased up when she saw that I was crestfallen. "Anyway, that's just Archie. They're pals."

Silently, awkwardly, we watched the frantic tussle of greeting between the wiener dog and the comparatively gigantic Dalmatian. Finally, Erica turned to me. "I didn't mean to punch you out. You were trying very hard, and I appreciate that." I smiled. She went on. "But it's just as difficult to deal with people who ignore that I have a disability as it is to handle those who assume that because I'm different that I'm also deaf, or I can't dress myself, or can't read. Or own a dog," she added, smiling now.

"When able people deal with me, they

tend either to obsess about my arms, or pretend that nothing's wrong. Either way it's bad, because either way people aren't reacting honestly. I want people to take me for who I am."

San Francisco is a very special place. In San Francisco, miracles often happen exactly when they're supposed to. In San Francisco, on this Sunday afternoon, Jester came trotting back across the field, covered with Archie-drool, and escorted by a 5-year-old boy wearing a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles tee shirt. Upon arrival, Jester tore at her tennis ball, and wetly rolled in the grass at our feet. The little boy ran up, laughed at the undignified animal, and asked me, "What's your dog's name?"

"Her name is Jester, but she's not my dog, she's Erica's dog," I answered. The boy stared at Erica, and then asked, "How can you take care of a dog if you don't got no hands?" Erica looked at me and smiled. Then she told him, "I use my feet, since I don't have hands. I do a pretty good job." The kid cocked his head, thought for a minute, and said, "Okay." He stole the ball from Jester, and boy and dog ran off.

Our complicated world often requires complicated thoughts. Still, I often wish that we could deal with differences and skills as simply and forthrightly as our serendipitous Ninja Turtle child did. His arrival, brief interrogation, and swift departure quickly got to the nut of the situation.

Continued on Page 16

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Let BYLINES be BYLINES

Continued from Page 15

ation—here was a nice lady who don't got no hands who didn't need any help taking care of her funny dog. And that was fine.

Erica left after about 20 more minutes, as the warmth of the sun faded over Twin Peaks. She had explained to me that no,

she didn't unlock her front door with her feet, but with her teeth, that she could type with her toes, teeth, and arm stub. She also could kick Jester's ball as far as I could throw it. When she left, we were friends.

Talking about reality was much easier than pretending to ignore it. I didn't ask her how she lost her arms, or if she had them to begin with. It didn't seem to matter. She had a great dog, could type letters, cook food, was almost completely self-sufficient, and was happy. In this case, the word "disabled" does not apply. □

Alexander Clemens lives on 30th Street and works as a community organizer for the South of Market Problem-Solving Council.



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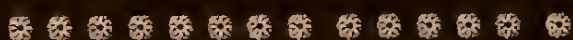
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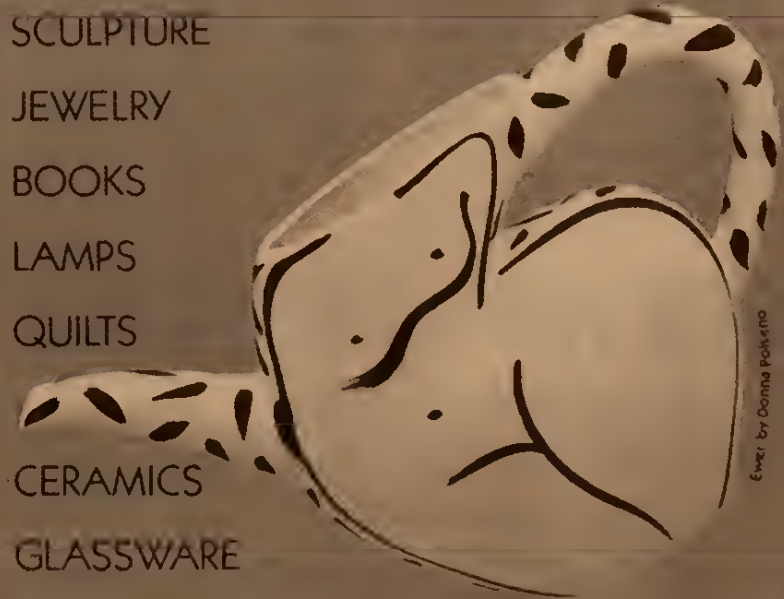
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House of Moms: Ready to celebrate Mother's Day is this contingent from Timothy Mouse Daycare on Diamond Street. From left: JoAna Kukulus and Joshua; Lisa Martin, Jacob Grumbach, and baby Matthew Grumbach; Valerie Valdez and Kazimir Buryu; Julie Pygm and Shane Fallon, Jane Lewis and Elan; Ann Peters and Ross; and Suzy Ferrigno and Kenny. PHOTO BY ED BURYU

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New Moms' Workshop Gives Birth To Creative Journals

By Larry Beresford

Noe Valley writer Leslie Kirk Campbell faced a "life and death" decision four years ago when she found out she was pregnant.

Campbell—a poet, playwright, fiction writer, and creative writing teacher—had to choose between assuming the enormous responsibility of single parenthood, or having an abortion. To help sort out her feelings, she began writing letters addressed to her unborn child, whom she called Matagalpa, after the town in Nicaragua where she was teaching English and where her child was conceived.

"When I got pregnant, I had just quit my job. . . . I'd saved up money to take a year off just to write," Campbell explains. "In the process of writing letters to my fetus, about a very significant issue—was I going to keep this child or not?—I ended up feeling I had connected with this being. We had made a covenant together. And I decided to keep him," she says.

But, she adds, "Only at the point where I realized that this being I had created was also going to support me—as a kind of muse, inspiration, and ally—was I able to decide to keep the baby. I decided that the creation of a human being would propel my own creativity. Lo and behold, three years later. . . ." her decision has come to play a central role in her career.

Campbell's experience as a new mother, and her background as both a graduate student and a teacher of creative writing at San Francisco State University, came together in the summer of 1989, a year after her son Orlando was born. That was when she formed "Journey into Motherhood," a journal-writing workshop for pregnant women and new mothers.

She wanted the class—taught around the dining room table or in the back yard of her Alvarado Street apartment—to offer a safe haven for women, mostly



A group of mothers-to-be joins author Leslie Kirk Campbell (lower left) in a backyard meditation, part of her "Journey into Motherhood" writing workshop. PHOTO BY MOSCO

first-time mothers, in which to explore issues of motherhood, and enhance their expressive abilities.

So far, Campbell has led four 12-week sessions of "Journey into Motherhood," with another session planned for this July. And Noe Valley's Natural Resources childbirth center is sponsoring a one-day version of the workshop on May 25.

Campbell is also exploring the development of another writing class, to be called "Writing for Our Future," which would include fathers and parents of older children. In addition, she is talking to a literary agent about publishing her book of letters to her son (*No One Will Surrender*), as well as a book about the mothers' workshop.

From NO ONE WILL SURRENDER

By Leslie Kirk Campbell

My breasts hurt. The little blue baby comes with the little blue stork. I walk the streets. The clouds erase the sky, then the twilight bursts erasing the clouds. Every house and hill is clear, cleaned by slanting rain. I eat two moon-shaped pastries that are dry and sweet with bright magenta pitaya juice filled with slippery black seeds. I buy *Lenin* by Mayakovsky for 35 cents with huge black and red glossy pages. Finally I walk into the home of Esperanza, my Nicaraguan mother, and rock in a child's rocking chair in front of the television with the local street philosopher, Cruz. He is watching a giraffe giving birth to a giraffe in England. Suddenly so am I. It seems to take a long time. Every moment is recorded for up to three million Nicaraguans, the entire country, to watch on their only TV station. There are long minutes with no television narrator. Only a big giraffe standing by a white wall fills the screen. I think I am rocking with increasing gusto as hooves, knees, thighs hang out but my chair is still. The big giraffe is also motionless. Prime time is dinner time and here it comes falling out of the back underside of the mother. The remarkable thing is that the animal coming out is a giraffe, too, identical to its mother with exactly the same nose, the same legs, the same spots. A complete giraffe in miniature able to walk within minutes! Later, at the table, almost hypnotized by the stunning recurrence of rice and beans on my plate, I am suddenly pulled to look up. I see Cruz in the next room, the reflection of the TV news ravaging his face with rapidly changing dark and light shapes. And next to him my little rocking chair is rocking without me.

August 19

"Journey into Motherhood" is an intensive exploration into what it means to be a mother "on the cusp of the 21st century," using family-tree research and writing exercises in which participants try to imagine their own future, plus the experiences of their mothers and grandmothers.

The classwork also covers "the fundamentals of creative writing, even song-writing or love letters," Campbell says. Such elements include the sounds and rhythm of language, vivid imagery, metaphors, and poetic and prose phrasing. "My feeling is that by honing these skills to make them second nature, whatever one writes will be more effective."

The class also explores the isolation many new mothers feel, and the dilemma of having to choose between being a full-time parent—with the present-day risk of social disapproval—or joining the ranks of working parents, who face significant pressure to be "Super Mom."

Campbell describes her role as one of providing "a greenhouse for people's imagination." By helping new mothers dig deeply into the issues of motherhood, she also aims to "help people to be the very best parents they can be."

The class culminates in a group poetry reading for husbands and partners.

One workshop participant, Noe Valley resident and elementary school teacher Darla Radcliffe, says, "When I found out I was two months pregnant, I sensed I needed more emotional and spiritual support to do self-examination: What did my mother mean to me? What did her mother mean to her?"

"In the workshop I would free-write—brain spill—and stuff would just pour out. It was so poetic, it's hard to talk about. I'd go into Grace Cathedral, and I'd be flooded with feelings and images. In the workshop writing, my mother became this expansive poetic being. I've been reading this writing to my mother. She was a little taken aback with a couple of the pieces, which I wrote as if I were her. She was teary-eyed after she heard them."

Radcliffe, who gave birth to twins in February, is taking a year off from teaching to stay home with the babies. Her husband Richard is a chef at Acquerello on Sacramento Street. But she has found it difficult to continue her creative writing since Campbell's class ended. "It [the writing] unfolds and flowers in an environment that encourages creativity. It's not easy to do on my own. I need a group,

Continued on Page 19

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Pregnant Journal-Writing

Continued from Page 18

and I need the time."

"The isolation of mothers, it's definitely there," says Noe Valley mother Ann Peters, who took Campbell's workshop while pregnant with her second son Gus last year. "Motherhood isn't really valued in this culture. There are lots of conflicts around it. People say motherhood is so important and so great, but they tend to think I sit around all day watching TV." Peters, who studied English literature in college and attended law school, now works as a full-time home-



Leslie Kirk Campbell is sharing her experience of pregnancy—along with the joys of nurturing her son, Orlando, 3—in her writing classes on Alvarado Street. PHOTO BY ED BURYN

ANTICIPATION

I feel like blimp. I feel like I swallowed a watermelon. I feel like a fish howl with a huge fish lodged in it, sideways. I feel like a rock that wants to be a peach tree, that wants to flower and bear fruit.

I feel conspicuous walking in public. I feel like an elephant lumbering among dainty women.

My feet are swollen. I am puffed up, about to burst. I feel like peeing all the time.

I am obsessed that the baby may be a mutant, because of the espresso I drank. I cannot sleep, worrying about the instant mashed potatoes preserved with sodium bisulfite that I ate in that crucial first trimester. I see the baby born purple instead of beige, eight-armed, two-headed, and each head with an elephant's trunk.

I see the midwife's face as it is born. Surprised, she tries to decide whether or not to show it to me. She figures I can't handle it and takes off running down the hall toward the front door, running with it under her arm like a football.

—A journal entry by Chandler Downs, a participant in Leslie Kirk Campbell's writing classes

maker.

"We talked about this whole topic in the workshop," she adds. "I didn't get much support from people for staying home when my first baby, Ross, was born. I'd take Ross to the park, but I'd bring the *Wall Street Journal* so I could 'keep up.'" Now she's realized that "being a mother is the most important and valuable thing I do."

Although it has been harder to find the time since Gus was born, Peters continues to write regularly in her journal, and a recent poem of hers was published in the Natural Resources newsletter.

Campbell, 39, also teaches writing through the California Poets in the Schools program, and works as a program coordinator for the Performing Arts Workshop, a non-profit organization that fosters performing arts in the public schools.

As she is being interviewed for this article, her son Orlando, almost 3, interrupts to ask for more raisins and nuts, more orange juice, permission to crack the eggs for the dinner she is preparing,

and to be picked up.

How hard is it to be a single parent? "I went to a single parents support group when I was pregnant," Campbell says by way of an answer. It can also be difficult, she points out, to integrate one's romantic life with the responsibilities of single parenthood. (Campbell was involved with someone who played an active role in Orlando's care during his first year, but that relationship ended.)

"But the main thing about being a single parent," she adds, "is that it really exhausts you." Campbell juggles her work, her time with Orlando, and her pursuits as "an artist with ambition and passion. It's really exhausting, and it's lonely, but I have a lot of confidence about wanting to live a life that fulfills me."

At the same time, she says, "for me and for a lot of other women, motherhood is a very creative and spiritual time. There's something absolutely incredible and thrilling about creating a new being, just like you, but in miniature. It also connects us to mothers throughout the world and through history."

Not all of the participants in Campbell's workshops have been 30-something Noe Valleyites. She encourages referrals from Crittendon Services for unwed teenage mothers who want to study writing.

However, Radcliffe and Peters both note that "Journey into Motherhood" is very much a Noe Valley story: "Before I was pregnant, I was amazed by all the strollers on 24th Street," Radcliffe says.

"Look around," adds Peters. "it's packed with moms and kids. I never see the same moms twice."

For information on Leslie Kirk Campbell's "Journey into Motherhood," including the 12-week session starting July 25, call her at 285-1926. She also teaches "Ripe Fruit" writing classes, "for anyone who is ripe to write." □

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We must take the white-haired destroyer,
Buried in boulders of hears
Daddy, Daddy! Get Gus!
I don't know how he got there

Next we'll lay waste to the bedroom
Now it's Trampoline Time
Jump and thrash, hounce and squeal
Grab your brother by the heel
And sing the monkey rhyme

Hurl yourself into the air
Crash back to the ground
Scream and giggle, shout and roar
Tickle tickle, heg for more
As laughter explodes around

You are the Prince of the Land of Bedroom
You are the King of the Rock and Roll
Woe to the subject who says "It's naptime."
Or the sentry on diaper patrol

—Ann Quenan Peters



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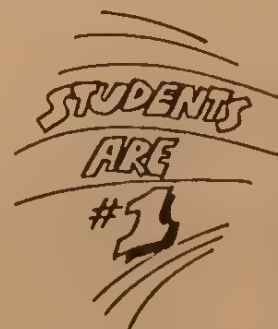


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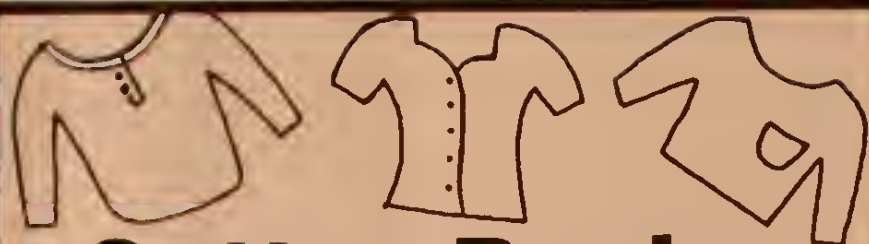
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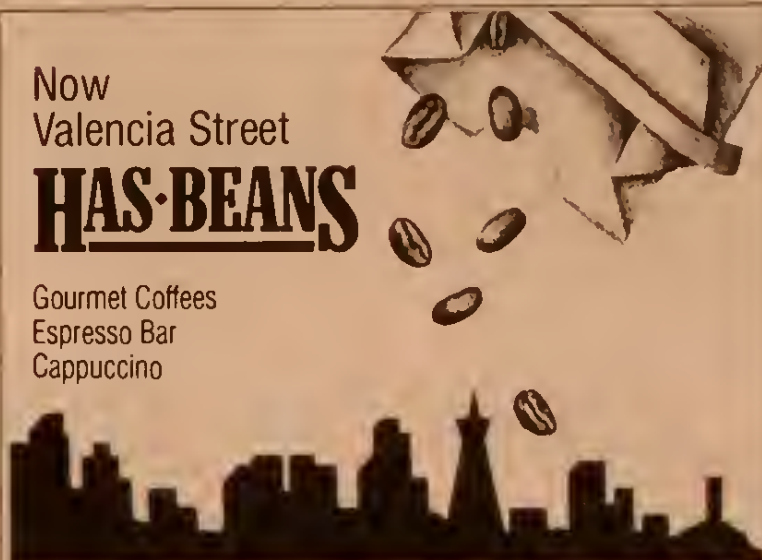
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The Visionary Voyages of Artist Robert Newrock

By Jeanne Alexander

The New York art world has been acquainted with Robert Newrock's paintings and sculpture for 25 years. But now it has *discovered* him. And there's a big difference. On a January visit to the Big Apple, "the door opened and the red rug was rolled out," the 55-year-old Noe Valley artist reports.

Wearing his trademark Levi jacket and jeans—heavily splattered with the brilliant colors he paints in—Newrock is sitting in the 24th Street Meat Market Coffeehouse, the hangout he repairs to for his daily eight or nine cups of coffee.

"Two years ago when I went back to New York, they weren't ready for me, and I knew it wasn't my time," Newrock recalls. "But on this trip I knew exactly where to go." It was to the prestigious Louis Rempier Gallery in SoHo, the downtown area that has become the center of Manhattan's art colony. "I liked the way the gallery looked, I liked the stuff he had on the walls, and I knew this was my gallery."

"I walked in and Louis said, 'Who are you?' and I said, 'Robert Newrock, artist of San Francisco/Noe Valley.' He said, 'Come in the back office and let's talk. I've been looking for you, Newrock.' And I said, 'I've been looking for you too.'"

After talking with Newrock and viewing slides of his work, Rempier offered him a show this fall. The gallery owner is flying out to San Francisco this month to choose the works to be hung—definitely the red carpet treatment.

While in New York, Newrock celebrated this "next big, high step in my career" by cutting loose on a jazz spree, making the rounds of clubs where they play his favorite music. "There are over 15 jazz joints in lower Manhattan, and I think I hit them all," he says.

From lower Manhattan, it was back to the lower levels of the house on Clipper Street where he maintains his studio. The cavernous basement work space is one he finagled in exchange for clearing it out and painting the owner's house four years ago.

Entering through a subterranean black door adorned with several push-pinned messages (Newrock has no telephone here or in his Mission District abode), visitors make their way down a narrow, dimly-lit corridor. Huge canvases he rolled up and shoved against the wall. (Careful, don't trip.)

Four rooms branch off to the side, each containing finished paintings propped up in the corners, as well as canvases in various stages of development on the floor. Overhead, electric wires sputter, sending erratic current into the spotlights that illuminate the work below.

"This place has been called 'the dark studio,'" Newrock notes, "because it never had any lights until recently. And even now, he adds, 'they keep going off.'"

Why is that pipe along the wall so brilliantly striped? "It's where I test the paint on my brush, to see if I like the color."

Newrock pulls out several works: "Paris," an abstract woman whose outline is clearly visible; "Front," a piece suggestive of war, in red and black; and "Surrender," a sculptural painting with forms shaped by an undercoating of plastic (a Japanese buyer is interested in this one).

Three other paintings are part of what he calls his American Indian myth series. "I believe in the Indian spirit," Newrock says, adding, "I'm understanding it more as I go."

He has just begun two major works: "Ring of Fire," depicting a mammoth red ring leaking color against a black background, and "Purple Dive," which may turn into "Black Dive" ("I don't know

what it's going to be, but if I don't like it, I have to paint it over"). He wants to finish them before Rempier arrives.

When the gallery owner comes out, Newrock will rent a friend's studio with enough space and light to hang his stored work. "I want to show him the rug paintings, too," he remarks.

Rug paintings? Yes, indeed—massive artworks painted on the backs of rugs and rolled up out there in the hall. In the late '80s, Newrock began working on a monumental scale—doing pieces up to 20 feet high and 15 feet wide—but canvases of that size were too expensive, he says. Thus, he turned to discarded rugs—gleaned from dumpsters, sidewalks, and friends' garages.

"I look for rugs with a very tight weave on the back, because it takes gallons of paint to obscure the texture," he explains, adding that Orientals are the best, although as castoffs they're rather scarce.

"Ode to William Blake," one of Newrock's best-known works, is a rug painting. Describing it in the May 1989 issue of *San Francisco* magazine, poet Neeli Cherkovski wrote, "There is a human form, in black and white, a dark spirit standing on earth, surrounded by a controlled chaos of paint. The painting looks tribal, like a dream sketch for a New Guinea mask or an African talisman."

As for the artist's general style, Cherkovski observed, "Often he combines figurative and abstract elements in a playful yet masterful manner. . . . His works are reminiscent of early abstract expressionism, but with his own unique authority."

Newrock has been expressing that unique authority throughout his venturesome career. He was born in 1936 in Freedom, Penn., a little steel town on the Ohio River. During summer vacations from high school, he worked in the mills, taking a rebellious time out at the age of 15 to hitchhike across the country.

Upon graduating from Freedom High, he joined the Marine Corps ("a great education") and four years and one honorable discharge later, headed east—to New York "to get acquainted with the artist scene where the poetry and painters

Robert Newrock has survived both dark and light periods in his career as an artist, and is now a hit in galleries on both coasts
PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

were," and to Key West, Fla., where the boats were. (Newrock has always enjoyed writing poetry and sailing seas, but painting and sculpture have been the main artistic focus of his life.)

Study in New York at the Art Students' League, and grants from the Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, New York City Foundation of the Arts, and Parsons School of Design led to Newrock's growing success in the '60s and '70s. He exhibited work in oils in Paris and London—and at the Bleecker Street Gallery in New York—and his massive marble sculptures were displayed at Rockefeller Center and the World Trade Center.

In 1963, on one of his periodic sojourns to Key West, he and three other artists banded together as the Subconscious Revolutionaries of Modern Art, and founded the New Moon Gallery, Key West's first modern art gallery.

"The other galleries were showing paintings of palm trees and old houses and a pelican perched on a piling," he recalls. "They refused to hang anything resembling modern art." He adds that Tennessee Williams bought one of his paintings.

The gallery flourished for five years, and during that period, wrote one critic, "Robert Newrock, the rough and tumble artist, was probably the most prolific and consistent in his constant pursuit of the images that sprang up from his subconscious mind. He painted on clay bricks, old boards, panes of glass, coconuts. Lack of materials never kept Newrock from painting when the urge came." Nor did lack of money. When things were tight, he lived on a shrimp boat and fished part-time for a living.

Coming to California in 1976, Newrock settled in Venice and was showing his work up the coast as far as Seattle, when the urge for more extended travel

Continued on Page 22

Newrock

Continued from Page 21

hit. So he joined the merchant marine. "For the next three years, art took a real back seat to my lifestyle at sea," he admits. "We sailed to China, Japan, Manila, Vietnam, and Hawaii. We went from ship to ship, like pirates. Going ashore meant wine, women, and song. It was an experience, but I always knew I would get back to serious art, and finally I did. My drinking and seafaring days stopped in San Francisco in 1979."

Dropping anchor didn't happen overnight, however. Newrock meandered around the country for a couple more years. "I was still searching for myself, knowing what I had to do—get situated and start my art back."

Homeless by choice ("I needed to be free to wander at will, explaining nothing, owing nothing"), he lived for a time under the steel pilings of the Bay Bridge, and began to construct sculptures out of found objects, leaving them and walking away when they were finished. Thinking back, he says, "The time I was homeless actually served as a good experience for my work, for my ideas of creativity. It's hard to create something if you're nice and comfortable—it's sort of a lazy atmosphere. If you're out in the elements, you see it all and feel it all. You get the creative spirit to work for you."

It has been working full-time for him

during these last five years in Noe Valley. His pen-and-ink drawings at the F.J. Michael's Gallery "sold like that [swipe of the hand]," he says. "The owners didn't believe it." And he's had other showings at the Folsom Street, Outlaw, and Sunset galleries, a "Monumental Paintings" exhibit at the San Francisco Fine Arts Center a year ago last April, and, also last spring, his famous "paint the public" event to benefit the homeless, "since I had been out there among them."

Editor Warren Sharpe, nightclub owner Larry King (Boppers House of Rock 'n' Roll), poet Cherkovski, and "various types of somewhat famous people" gathered at the Civic Center Plaza, where Newrock invited them to "step onto the

canvas" and have their clothes turned into wearable art.

"Larry King came in a white cashmere sport coat, and I did a wild design," says Newrock. "Pedestrians came from all around the square, and people walked over from City Hall—one woman in a beautiful black silk suit. Television stations covered it. It was a good event for a worthy cause."

These days, however, Newrock has more serious projects on his agenda. He has long envisioned doing a 100-foot-high sculpture for the city, to be called "The Spirit of St. Francis." (That Francis is his middle name is merely an appropriate coincidence.) And with the demolition of the Embarcadero freeway in progress,

he has his eye on some of the steel girders—he needs them for the piece.

"It makes the whole story right—the Embarcadero freeway comes down, and the sculpture rises to ward off the evil spirits of oil spills and earthquakes."

He knows that political will and clout will be necessary to set the wheels in motion, but "if somebody takes an interest in it and says 'let's see the drawing,' I'm ready," he says.

He's also ready to get back to Paris and paint among the Parisians, and has asked a friend in New York to scout for a studio.

Meanwhile, on this side of the Atlantic, a new art gallery is opening this summer on Long Island, and Newrock has been asked for a work that will hang among those of Robert Rauschenberg, Willem de Koonig, and Sam Francis. Late last month he flew to New York to get the painting out of storage and into the Hot Gallery (that's its name) in Spring, N.Y.

"My whole life has been an odyssey in and out of art," he muses. "Art never left me while I was on the road. It followed me and pulled me back into it."

In reply to the oft-posed question "What is art?" Newrock says, "I don't know what art is, but I am driven to make a mark. I don't worry about my roof leaking, or buying a car, or going to the bank, or getting a telephone—or how I look or what I dress like. These things are what I had to set aside. Painting is the priority. I see these visions, and I paint." □



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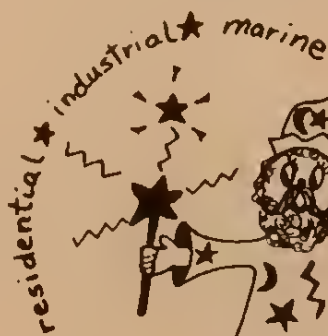
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Missing from Mission?

If you graduated from Mission High School in the spring of 1966, or if you know of someone who did, the school's Class of '66 reunion committee is looking for you. The committee is organizing a 25-year reunion, to be held on Saturday, June 22, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Burlingame, and everyone, including friends of the class, is invited.

The event, which will feature dinner and dancing, costs \$50 per person, with overnight accommodations going for \$89.

To register, or to help locate "missing" classmates, call Rosita Dion, at 665-1019, or Jerry Uribe, at 583-4390.

Neighborhood Get-Together

On Sunday, May 19, the Upper Noe Recreation Center's grassy field will become the site for a festive, first annual "Upper Noe Neighborhood Party," sponsored by the Upper Noe Neighbors group.

The party, which will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., is all about loving thy neighbor—or at least getting to know him or her a little better—and will feature a plethora of local performers, artisans, and businesses.

According to organizer Janice Gendreau, the gathering will be a great way "to relax on the park green [Day and Sanchez streets] after running the Bay to Breakers.

"You can picnic, peruse antique quilts and crafts, get a hair cut, or hire a contractor," she says. "Just bring something to sit on!"

Participants can pig out on barbecued delights from Drewes Meat Market or desserts and coffee from What's For Dessert? And while the food's digesting, everyone can lay back in the sun and listen to the eclectic sounds of drum wizard Eddie Marshall, Dana Atherton's jazz trio, or the Anything Goes Chorus.

Kids can enjoy some face-painting and a "moon walk," among other activities.

Upper Noe Neighbors is still looking for merchants and artists who have wares to sell, or residents who have services to promote, so if you'd like to set up a concession or performance, call Gendreau at 641-5989.

Free Clinic for Kids

St. Luke's Hospital and the Shriners Hospital will sponsor an orthopedic medical screening clinic for children up to the age of 18, at St. Luke's Neighborhood Clinic, 3555 Army St., on Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Physicians will screen for and evaluate orthopedic problems, such as scoliosis, club feet, bowed legs, and hip dislocations, as well as spinal chord and burn

SHORT TAKES



An Easter egg hunt at Noe Courts brought more than just a big bunny with a basket. It also kicked off a fundraising drive to help pay for a new play structure and other improvements at the park on 24th Street. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

injuries. All services will be provided free of charge, and translators will be on hand for Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, and Cambodian speakers.

Transportation to and from the screening will be available for those in need. For additional information, call 665-1100, extension 166 or 131.

Call for Civic Leaders

Are you interested in having more influence on public policy? Is the current budget crisis beyond your comprehension (or do you think you could do better)? Are you in love with the city but depressed by its problems?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, the Coro Foundation's civic leadership program may be for you.

The Coro Foundation, a public affairs research group now in its seventh year, is accepting applications until May 10 for "City Focus," a training program it designed to encourage the development of new leadership in San Francisco.

The program, running from Oct. 18, 1991, to June 11, 1992, will zero in on the city budget, urban issues, conflict resolution and negotiation, and city/state governmental relationships, using the city as a classroom.

Employers, service organizations, and government, labor and community organizations are encouraged to submit nominations for qualified applicants. For

more information call 546-9690.

Pooch 'n' People Walks

Noe Valley pet lovers take heed: on Saturday, May 4, at 8:30 a.m., more than 5,000 humans and dogs are expected to assemble in Golden Gate Park's Sharon Meadow for the San Francisco SPCA's PetWalk '91—the largest doggie walkathon in the world.

Petwalkers will make a winding trek through the park to raise money for the society, and all funds will go toward finding homes for abandoned animals.

Participants can opt for either the Five-Mile Strut or the more leisurely One-Mile Stroll, led by Peggy Sue—one of the 120 dogs taken from a squalid Northern California puppy mill. Doggie demonstrations (including one by the canine world's current frisbee champion) and contests featuring hundreds of prizes will round out the event.

To find out more about PetWalk '91 activities, call the PetWalk Hotline, at 554-3096.

If doggies aren't your bag, you can always join the Human Race, a community fundraiser to benefit non-profit groups. Participants in this event can walk, run, stroll, or bicycle on Saturday, May 11, starting at 9 a.m. on the Great Meadow, at upper Fort Mason. To sign up, call the Volunteer Center of San Francisco, 982-8999.

When in Drought, Plant Trees

Yes, it is possible to conserve water while still greening the streets of San Francisco. In fact, according to Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF), it only takes 10 gallons of water a week to establish a newly planted tree—that's an amount equal to two flushes of the toilet.

Clifford Janoff, executive director of FUF, notes that "not camellias, not impatiens, and not grass, but trees... are the most water-efficient landscaping to plant in drought years."

To obtain information sheets on drought-tolerant trees, and the bucket method of watering, call FUF at 543-5000.

Courting Noe Courts

The Noe Courts fundraising committee invites members of the community to a "focus" meeting on Noe Courts, the park located at the corner of 24th and Douglass streets.

The committee has raised almost enough money to have a new children's play structure installed in the park, and neighborhood response has been so positive, says fundraising coordinator Erica Green, that "we're now thinking about how to continue the fundraising effort" in order to effect further park improvements, such as repaving the tennis courts, putting a gate around the children's playground, and repairing the broken water fountain.

Representatives from the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, local merchants, and neighborhood groups will be present at the meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m., in the Latvian Lutheran Church, 425 Hoffman St.

For more information, contact Green at 824-6330.

AIDS Caregivers

The Zen Center Hospice, which serves the medically indigent and poor of San Francisco, is offering a training session for caregivers, from May 15 to 29. The 40-hour program will train volunteers to work with terminal cancer or AIDS patients at either the Zen Center's guest hospice, Laguna Honda Hospice and AIDS Unit, or San Francisco General Hospital.

The training will encompass many aspects of hospice work, including pain and symptom management, grief work, family dynamics, bedside care, and the spiritual dimensions of dying. To apply or find out more, call 863-2910.

For those people who are already acting as caregivers, Kairos House, a re-

Continued on Page 25

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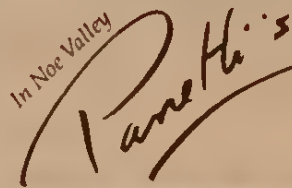
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SHORT TAKES

Continued from Page 23

source center for the caregivers of HIV-affected persons, offers several support groups, including a Multiple Loss Support Group on Mondays, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., and a Day Group for Caregivers, on Wednesdays, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

And on Saturday, May 18, the center will be conducting a special one-day workshop, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., titled "Caregiving: the Final Stage." Led by David Cardenas and the Kairos staff, the workshop is an opportunity to explore practical suggestions on how to support someone through the dying process.

For more information on these or any other caregiver groups at Kairos House, located at 114 Douglass St. in the Castro, call 861-0877.

At the Movies

A new monthly film series, Noe Valley Movies, has entered the limelight in the upstairs sanctuary of the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St. The series

is described by its co-producer, Paul Etchevery, as "a mixture of features, short films, clips, oddballs, and commercials."

Etchevery and his partner, "technical wizard" Bob Ekman, are long-time movie buffs, and connoisseurs of sundry, campy humor, "particularly B-films out of the '40s and '50s."

Last month's program had a sci-fi theme, with *Robot Night* as the main feature, preceded by "a 1953 educational film on how to escape a nuclear blast in your car... sponsored by the automobile industry." It also included some animation.

This month, on May 25 at 7:30 p.m., the series will continue with "Surrealist Shorts: Dadaists, Cineastes, and Cartoonists." Etchevery and Ekman are taking a siesta in June and July, but the program will resume in August.

Shows last around three hours, minus a 15-minute intermission, and tickets are sold at the door for \$4. For more information, give Etchevery a call at 343-3496.

This month's Short Takes were compiled and written by Jane Underwood and Margo Weisz. □



Scaling the Peaks: The familiar little mountaineer who greets patrons of the Peaks bar on Castro Street descended from his lofty perch for a paint job, belayed by George Hopkins of Ace Signs. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

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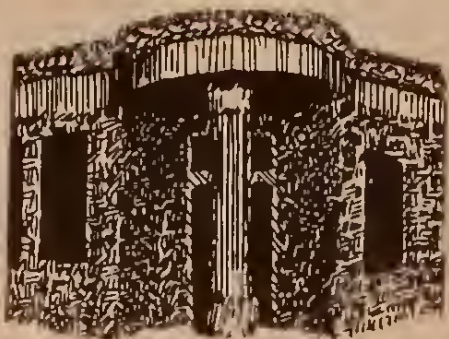
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Romancing the Beard

Since ancient times, attitudes toward facial hair have varied, and whiskers have come and gone with the cycles of fashion—at times denoting wisdom, virility, or status, and at other times just the reverse. When the beard was adopted as the symbol of international radicalism in the 19th century, it fell out of fashion in established societies, and by the 20th century was regarded with uneasy suspicion. Consequently, in the 1940s no one wore a beard, not even the avant-garde students at the California School of Fine Arts, where I was studying.

So it caused quite a stir when one day a graduate student by the name of Leo Holub appeared wearing a full black growth on his chin. The women students, who had previously called him "Lovely Leo" to his face, suddenly reacted with a barrage of criticism behind his back, as though he had deliberately committed an offense against them.

Although I knew Leo only casually, I admired his talent, his gentle manner, and his (former) clean-cut appearance. Deeming the critics unfair, I tried to defend his hirsute rights, arguing that he was the same person with or without the beard. However, my protest fell on deaf ears, and the discrimination persisted. It took a great deal of courage in those days to grow a beard, and as I soon found out, to date the one who grew it.

When our favorite art teacher was hospitalized, several concerned students made plans to visit him. But on the designated Saturday, the only ones to appear at the hospital were Leo and myself. We visited our recovering mentor, and Leo offered to see me home. That day, a compatible relationship began, so in spite of his beard, and before we reached my house, we had arranged a standing Saturday date.

Without the luxury of the automobile, Leo and I traveled by streetcar, sometimes going out to dinner, and often to see exhibits at the museums. But no matter where we went among the clean-shaven, we attracted unwanted attention. During the long streetcar rides, the other passengers stared openly, as though they had never seen a beard before (and perhaps they hadn't). We got used to the ogling in time, but one evening it became particularly annoying—the evening Leo took me to see the opera *Carmen*.

At the intermission, we sauntered to the lobby to stretch our legs, and since this was my first opera (and my last), it wasn't making much sense to me. Leo was explaining the plot when I spotted a group of my Swede-Finn girlfriends peeking around the corner in our direction, giggling audibly. To lose them, we strolled in the opposite direction, only to discover that they had hurried around to meet us, still snickering. Wherever we went, there they were! Only when we returned to our seats did we escape the titterers.

Judgment came from other quarters as well. Each day when I returned home from school, a young man, Jerry, was sitting on the front stairs, awaiting a friendly chat. Jerry was an adorable 5-year-old who often told me about his plans for the future. He wanted to be a fireman, although he had not yet started kindergarten. One day, when Leo was with me, I introduced them.

After sizing up the competition, Jerry stated emphatically: "When I get big, I'm not going to have a beard like you." As we walked away, Leo covered his amusement with feigned anger, muttering "the little brat." But it was over between Jerry and me.

My brothers and my father liked my new beau, especially my father, because it gave him a chance to exercise his "Svedish" humor. "Florence," he'd say, "don't take Leo out in the garden. I wouldn't want him to get his whiskers caught in the branches of the apple tree." And whenever his lodge brothers boasted about the activities of their children, he was able to inform them that his daughter was seeing Jesus Christ. Top that.

Leo had been wearing his beard only three months when he decided to shave it off and fade back into the crowd of smooth faces. But alas, no one recognized him! One afternoon he passed the Shell station where my younger brother pumped gas, so he stopped to exchange a few words. My brother racked his brain, but couldn't for the life of him remember who this man was, although apparently they were well acquainted. What a difference a shave makes!

On another occasion a few years later, when as a married mother I visited old family friends to show off our little son, our hostess exclaimed in glowing terms, "You have a fine son, a good husband." After a pause, she laughingly added, "Remember when you went with that fellow with the whiskers?" But before she could go on, her husband nudged her, whispering, "That's him! That's him!"

Thanks to the back-to-nature spirit of the '60s, beards are wholly acceptable these days. Leo, however, never cultivated one again—although his sons have produced a variety of lengths and configurations of fuzz on their faces. Instead, he has worn a full mustache for most of his life, one that has turned from black to silver during the 50 years of mutual fulfillment that we have shared.



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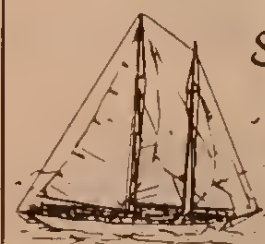
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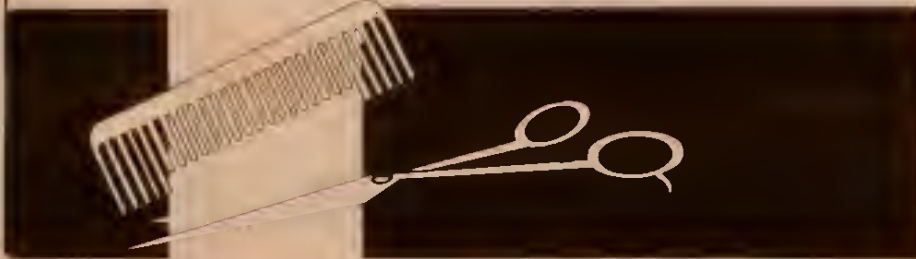
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

May Daze

By Mazook

FORTY-THREE GALLONS a day was my allotment in the city's mandatory water-rationing program launched April 1, 1991.

So I—along with hoards of other Noe Valleons—wound up at Tuggey's Hardware on 24th Street, desperate to find ways to lower my GPM (gallons per minute) consumption rate.

"We had quite a rush after property owners got their Water Department notices," says Tuggey's owner, Denny Giovannoli. "Not only were they buying water-saving shower heads with push-button shut-off valves [3 GPM, \$9], toilet restrictors, and faucet aerators [1.5 GPM, \$2 or less], but hundreds of people were getting parts to repair the leaks in their plumbing, because they know that that's where a lot of water can be wasted."

Noe Valleons have also been lugging their laundry to the cleaners. "Our business has gone up since last month," say Susan and Henry Cheung, who have been doing the neighborhood's laundry for close to 20 years at Suzie's on 24th near Church. But, according to Susan, "we also have a problem because our water has been cut by 45 percent and we're down to a thousand gallons a day."

Henry says they have no plans to raise their 55-cent-per-pound rate, even if the water bill goes up: "If our customer brings in their clothes for so long now, I'll do the job and pay the extra myself."

Things are rougher for Pete's Laundry, on 24th near Vicksburg. Owner Ray Kwong is appealing his allotment, which was reduced from 1,700 gal. a day to 300.

"It's ridiculous," says Ray. "And it's impossible to talk to the Water Department about it when they say, 'If we cut the water by one-third, then you cut business by one-third,' while more people are bringing in their wash."

Well, folks, this last bit of water rationing has turned out to be an April Fool's joke. At press time, property owners got the word that the S.F. Water Department had dumped its April emergency cutback and restored our old H₂O allotment (25 percent less than what we used in 1987). For me, it's back to 68.4 gallons per day. But for Pete's sake, pray for rain, drill for water (Noe Valley has many active underground streams), and pass the bucket, please.

☎☎☎

RAINCHECKS were issued by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association after its March 23 sidewalk sale and roving Easter Bunny were washed out by stormy weather. But the skies were clear on the make-up date (April 13), and almost all the 24th Street retailers put tables and goods out on the sidewalk, along with beaucoup de balloons.



The March 23 sidewalk sale sponsored by the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association was rained out, but a wet and wild 24th Street still "looked marvelous" to drought-conscious residents. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

According to Andrea Rothman, one of the organizers, the merchants did pretty well money-wise. "We are going to have another one, hopefully soon," she says.

The May 19 Neighborhood Block Party sponsored by Upper Noe Neighbors should be quite a gala. Rumor is that Alex De Grassi will be among the great musicians on stage at the Upper Noe Rec Center, with yours truly doing M.C. (and I don't mean Hammer) imitations. Be there or be nowhere.

Friends of Noe Valley is losing a hard-working member, secretary and newsletter editor Maria Kleczewska, who is moving to Menlo Park "in search of a life without commuting."

Writes Maria in the FNV's April newsletter: "I've been here four years, but in that time I've gotten married and had my wonderful son. I've also walked up and down 24th Street about a million times, had an equal number of decaf mochas, and met many good people."

As a footnote to this item, the FNV put out a plea to any Friends who have a Macintosh and who also might want to be newsletter editor. FNV member Rick Hauptman stepped forward and agreed to accept the floppy disk. Now Rick needs some news to edit. Come on, Noe Valley, let's get involved!

☎☎☎

ORDERS FROM HEADQUARTERS: The

S.F. Police Commission will hold its regular public meeting at Everett Middle School (450 Church St.) May 15, 7 p.m. And Mission Police Captain John Newlin wants everybody to attend, especially since he'll be delivering his "State of the Station" speech. Be there and be square (but that's okay too).

Of interest to some, he says, will be the proposed June 1 redistricting of the city's police stations. Right now, Mission Station's jurisdiction, for example, extends up Army Street to Twin Peaks Boulevard. Under the new map, Mission's boundaries would go up Army, but stop at Douglass and head north to 17th, making everything above Douglass part of the Park Station police district.

By the way, Capt. Newlin and Mission police officers Joanne Welsh and Lois "Robocop" Perillo (to quote the *Examiner*, which did an April feature about Noe Valley's well-wheeled beat patroller) will participate in the May 11 AIDS Bike-a-thon sponsored by the Shanti Project.

Speaking of our women and men in blue, Amy Perlmutter, coordinator of the city's recycling program, suggests that they—the police—are the ones you should call if you see people swiping stuff from the blue recycling bins you leave out for Sunset Scavenger.

Says Amy, "Theft is now becoming a real problem, and it's taking revenue from our recycling program." Based on

her analysis, 25 percent of the "high-value" recyclables (i.e., cans and bottles) are now being lost to thieves, composed of organized teams of men who raid the boxes in the very early a.m., fill up their waiting pickup trucks, and then take a motorized hike to the redemption centers.

Amy says please wait until morning to put out your bin, and if you see the bad guys, try to get their license plate number and phone it into the police pronto. If you have any other ideas, call the recycling hotline at 554-6193.

☎☎☎

BULK ROOM LOADING: The Real Food Company has now added a "breakfast island" to its famous refrigerated back room, which features over 100 varieties of nuts, rice, and grains (try the couscous for 95 cents a pound). Says Bulk Room coordinator Douglas Moon, "The island has new fun and tasty cereals, like raspberry muesli or Perky's Nutty Rice. Also, we have added candies to the stock, like chocolate- and carob-covered apricots and raisins, and English toffee."

In a somewhat related item, Bell Market, across 24th Street from Real Food, has discontinued carrying organic produce. When asked about the organic disappearance, a clerk referred all questions to the district office of QFI. Well, Bell's loss is a Real gain.

Elsewhere on the food front, two new Chinese restaurants should be opening on or before the 4th of July.

In a month or two, Eric and Howard Tong will unveil their Noe Garden, in the 24th Street spot vacated by Noe Valley Deli last year. The Tongs, who also run a restaurant on Diamond Street in Glen Park called Hong Sing, say their new place will serve Cantonese cuisine and offer a buffet lunch, dinner table service, and a to-go counter.

Continued on Page 30

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RUMORS

Continued from Page 29

Over at the Church Street Deli, owner Mei Fode says she is going to move her sandwich services to smaller quarters in Noe Valley (she's not sure where yet) and rent out her Church and 27th Street space to Ping and June Sung, who operate a popular Chinese eatery on Oak Street (Eliza's). According to Mei, the Sungs will enlarge the deli to a full-service restaurant with modern-America decor. A grand opening is planned for mid-summer.

For those of you who entered my "name that restaurant" contest for the Victorian-with-patio on 24th above Castro (formerly occupied by Little Italy Too), forget it. There will be no winner. The wannabe restaurateurs have pulled out of the deal, and the place is once again for rent.

☎ ☎ ☎

SHORT SHRIFTS: Swami Tripurari and his followers have recently departed Noe Valley, having sold their headquarters on

Church at 25th (for something less than the \$750K the swami was asking, I'm told). The building will now house a single person upstairs and an ophthalmologist (Dr. Robert Neger) downstairs.

Rob Morse, the *Examiner* columnist featured in the April *Voice*, has also moved out of the neighborhood. He now resides in the Marina, but says he'll make frequent trips to Downtown Noe Valley.

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Which reminds me, how much is that turtle in the window of Underwater Pets (at the bus stop at 24th and Castro)? Anywhere from \$15 to \$21—for the Red-Ear, Smooth-Shell, or Map turtle varieties.

Good Noe Valleons should also be aware that the printing press in the front window of Carroll's Books (Church and 24th) dates back to the Civil War and was painstakingly restored by store owner

Jim Carroll. And it works.

You already know that Everett Shades moved down 24th Street to the purple building vacated by Abundance. Well, a flashy gift store should be opening momentarily in Everett's old haunts.

Yes, that was another film crew at Drewes Meat Market April 11 shooting stills for an ad campaign, but this time the client was U.S. West Communications, which installs pay telephones. (Don't ask me what that has to do with a butcher shop.)

The window-shopper-stopper of the month was Star Magic's tribute to Earth Day 1991, which came and went April 21 without much fanfare in Noe Valley—except for the celebration at the peace pole in front of Video Wave. Keep up the fight, Rainbows.

Oops, my editor just lopped off my last 'graph—the usual warning about the ozone layer. Gotta go. Till next month. ☐



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MORE MOUTHS • to feed •

By Jane Underwood

Costandino Peter Surdis

It is the tradition in Greek families, explains Joanne Dames, to name the first-born son after the paternal grandfather. And this is how her own first son, born Dec. 24, 1990, at 9:25 a.m., came to be christened Costandino Peter Surdis—or "Dean" for short.

"There was no other choice," laughs Joanne, "if we wanted to stay in the family!"

Dean, who weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces at birth, is a product of Greek tradition in more ways than one. For example, Joanne met his father, Ted Surdis, after her first cousin and Ted's second cousin, a couple themselves, started matchmaking.

"I was visiting them in Greece," recalls Joanne, who at the time lived in Phoenix, Ariz., "and they insisted I should call Ted, who lived in San Jose, when I got back to the states. You know, the old 'nobody should marry a non-Greek' routine. Well, the last thing I wanted was a blind date, but my mother got wind of it, and made me call him when I was attending a medical convention in San Francisco." (Joanne, 34, is now an emergency room physician at Pacific Presby-



Ted Surdis and Joanne Dames with baby "Dean" PHOTO BY ED BURN

terian Hospital.)

When Joanne called Ted, he "resisted the idea" of meeting her, "but decided at the last moment to go through with it," he says. In spite of themselves, the two had a great time, but then Joanne had to go back to Phoenix. Within a month, however, they had overcome the obstacles, and were engaged ("our families were so happy"). Nine months later, they got married in Greece.

That was in September of 1988. After a short stint in San Diego, the Surdises moved to Elizabeth Street in Noe Valley and, just before Dean's birth, they bought a fixer-upper on Sanchez. "We gutted the place when I was nine months pregnant," says Joanne, "and Ted lived and breathed this house for 2½ months."

This July, they'll be returning to the

old country to have Dean baptized. Their son, "a bright-eyed, happy baby with a great disposition and the world's longest eyelashes," is as prepared for the upcoming trip as any 3-month-old could be, considering that his dad has "bombarded" him with Greek ever since his arrival.

"It's a good way for him to pick up the language," says his 35-year-old father. "I didn't know how to speak English myself until I went to kindergarten. . . . Knowing Greek is great for anyone studying science, like when Joanne took anatomy, and of course it helps us relate to our family in Greece." Ted is a former biochemist turned real estate broker.

In addition to speaking bilingual goo-goo-gah-gah, Dean is also quite talented in the hair-growing department. "When Dean was coming down the birth canal,"

says Joanne, "all Ted could say was, 'My God, look at all that hair!' Ted is balding, you see, so this was very exciting."

"I've seen a lot of babies," Ted pronounces, "and most of them were bald. But Dean was born with a full shock of hair."

Joanne, who started out her medical career as an obstetrician, has seen a fair number of babies herself, and says, "I've delivered over 300, but I had no idea what a great event it was until it happened to me. I didn't know what life was all about until I had this kid."

The best thing of all, she notes, "is that I get to re-live my childhood—the stories, nursery rhymes, and songs. Dean's going to teach us a lot, I can tell. It's a whole new world, seen through his eyes."

"It brings out the child in you all right," says Ted. "Now I have an excuse to roll around on the ground." □

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City Symbols: Manifestations of church and state decorate this stretch of Valley Street, where homey Victorians meet the gothic majesty of St. Paul's. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

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MORE Books to Read

Librarians Roberta Greifer and Carol Small offer these literary picks of the month at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. (near Castro). The library is open Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; and Thursday through Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m. For more suggestions, call 695-5095.

Adult Fiction

Sidney Blair's highly-praised first novel,

Buffalo, is both a funny and probing account of a Vietnam veteran who thinks he's ready to settle down.

In Robert Tanenbaum's *Immoral Certainty*, three brutal murders lead an assistant district attorney to Mafia connections and a California commune.

The Light Possessed, a novel by Alan Cheuse focusing on art in 20th-century America, depicts the life of a visionary woman whose creative genius lights the way for herself and others.

To Know a Woman, by Israeli author Amos Oz, tells the story of a depressed 50-year-old Tel Aviv widower who is obsessed with his past.

The War in 2020, a frightening epic by Ralph Peters, describes a future plagued by epidemics, street gangs, and laser battles.

Adult Non-Fiction

Buried Secrets, by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Edward Humes, portrays a ex-altar boy from Miami who becomes a drug-runner and serial killer.

The Continuous Life is U.S. poet laureate Mark Strand's first new book of poetry in 10 years.

In *Fragile Glory*, Richard Bernstein, the Paris correspondent for the *New York Times*, gives an up-to-date portrait of France and her people.

How to Protect Your Life Savings, by attorney Harley Gordon, is a financial handbook that covers dealing with Medicaid, nursing homes, and catastrophic illness.

Last Chance to See, by Douglas Adams, author of the popular *Huchhiker's Trilogy*, is a true adventure story featuring exotic and endangered animals throughout the world.

Children's Fiction

A smart and loving mother gets quite a surprise, and deals with it beautifully, in *The Mother's Day Sandwich* by Jillian Wynot. (Ages 3-7)

This year's winner of the Caldecott Medal, *Black and White* by David Macaulay, is a collection of several stories—depicted simultaneously. (Ages 5-7)

With *The Day of Ahmed's Secret*, by Florence Parry Heide and Judith Heide Gilliland, you can spend a day in Cairo with young Ahmed and share his wonderful secret. (Ages 5-7)

Meet *Ace, the Very Important Pig*. According to author Dick King-Smith, Ace is intelligent, lovable, and understands human speech. (Ages 8-11)

Jerry Spinelli's *Maniac Magee*, this year's winner of the Newbery Award, is about a fascinating 11-year-old boy who has a considerable impact on the town of Two Mills. (Ages 10 and up)

Children's Non-Fiction

You can find out why the wind is always blowing in *Feel the Wind* by Arthur Dorros. (Ages 5-9)

Billy Goodman's *A Kid's Guide to How to Save the Planet* provides constructive ideas on how to help the environment. (Ages 6 and up)

The Big Book for Peace, edited by Marilyn Sachs, looks at the issues of peace and conflict from a variety of perspectives. (Ages 6 and up)

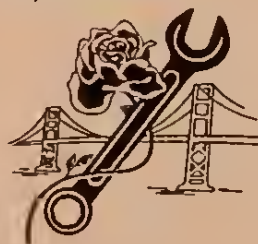
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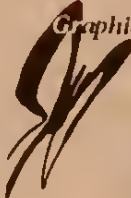
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How to Use Voice Class Ads

The rate for classified advertising in the Noe Valley Voice is 25¢ a word. Just type or print your copy, multiply the number of words by 25¢, enclose a check or money order for the full amount, and mail it to us by the 15th of the month preceding the month of issue.

It also would be a big help if you would indicate whether you are renewing an ad from a previous issue and, if so, include a copy of the published ad with your renewal.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be highlighted in all caps.

Our address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Note: The June issue of the Voice will appear June 4. Please mail your ad and check—made payable to the Noe Valley Voice—so that we receive it by May 15. Sorry, but we are unable to take phone or drop-in orders.

Also note: We cannot accept payment for insertions in more than six issues. Receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. □



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CALENDAR

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: The Wednesday LAPSITS for babies, toddlers, and their parents continue at the Noe Valley Library. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

MAY 2: The Guatemala News and Information Bureau sponsors a PANEL DISCUSSION, featuring three activists from Guatemala's labor and women's movements, to benefit the Grassroots Guatemala Fund. 7:30 pm. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 835-0810.

MAY 2-4: Choreographer Betsy Kagan presents a full-length DANCE CONCERT, including the premiere of "Undercurrents," set to the second movement of Beethoven's Quartet No. 9. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

MAY 2-19: Comedian MARGA GOMEZ delves into her bag of "Memory Tricks" Thursday through Sunday at the Marsh performance space. 8 pm. Cafe Beano, 878 Valencia St. 641-0235.

MAY 3 & 4: The French American International School hosts a performance of "The Shining Princess of Slender Bamboo," a Japanese FAIRY TALE by Sylvia Ashby. Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 3 & 8 pm. Woods Hall, 220 Buchanan St. 626-8564.

MAY 4: St. Luke's and Shriners hospitals offer a MEDICAL SCREENING clinic for children under 18. 9 am-3 pm. St. Luke's Neighborhood Clinic, 3555 Army St. 665-1100, ext. 166 or 131.

MAY 4: The San Francisco SPCA's benefit, "PETWALK '91," includes a live-mile strut and a one-mile stroll; dogless walkers welcome. 8:30 am-2 pm. Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park. 554-3096.

MAY 4 & 5: To commemorate International Community Service Day, Project MISSION PRIDE is seeking volunteers of all ages to help refurbish Mission High School. 18th & Dolores. Call David Wilson at 824-0374 or Meryle Mishkin at 285-9476 for information.

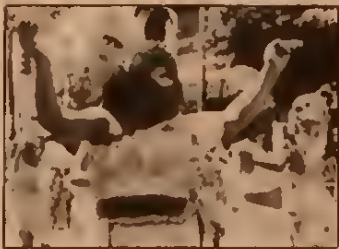
MAY 4 & 5: Voices/SF, Bay Area YOUTH OPERA, performs David Ahlstrom's "Song of the Golden Fish" (the Chinese Cinderella story), based on a traditional folk tale. 3 & 4:30 pm. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. 431-2027.

MAY 5: Baritone Edwin Barlow, accompanied by pianist Eric Howe, will give a VESPERS CONCERT to benefit the music program at Bethany Methodist Church. 4 pm. 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

MAY 5: The Jewish Community Federation celebrates ISRAELI Independence Day, with festivities including music, dancing, food, games, and arts and crafts. Noon-4 pm. Justin Herman Plaza, Embarcadero Center. 777-0411.

MAY 5: A special benefit CONCERT at St. Philip's Church features organist Richard Mayer and international singers/musicians Vita, performing folk, classical, and Spanish liturgical music. 3 pm. 725 Diamond St. 282-0141.

MAY 6-JUNE 9: "On to More Pressing Matters" is a show of monotypes, photo silkscreens, and MIXED MEDIA by Tim Baskerville, Diana Lawrence, Katie Murphy, and Deborah Sibony. Tues., Wed. & Thurs., 9 am-8 pm; Fri. & Sat., 9 am-6 pm. Meat Market Colteehouse, 4123 24th St. 285-5598.



This year's Carnaval climaxes with a parade through the Mission on May 26. PHOTO BY BOB HSIANG

MAY 1991

MAY 7: The NDE COURTS fundraising committee and representatives from the S.F. Rec and Park Department invite the neighborhood to a community meeting on the renovation of the small park located at 24th and Douglass. 7:30 pm. Latvian Lutheran Church, 425 Holtman St. Call Erica Green at 824-6330.

MAY 9: GREENTALKS presents Elinor Gadon, cultural historian and author of *The Once and Future Goddess, Symbol for Our Time*, in a slideshow and discussion titled "Mythologies of Violence and the Wounded Male." 7:30-9:30 pm. New College, 777 Valencia St. 255-2940.

MAY 9: The S.F. chapter of the Elder Women's League (DWL) sponsors a RECEPTION honoring artist and Coit Tower muralist Edith Hamlin, Mattie Jackson, retired vice president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and Maggie McCall, editor/publisher of the *Marina Times*. 6-8 pm. Bldg. A, Fort Mason. 550-1660.

MAY 9: The Friends of FreeWheeler, a group devoted to providing Bay Area-wide recreational outings for wheelchair-users, hosts a SILENT AUCTION, featuring food, wine, and music. 5:30-7:30 pm. Gerald Simon Hall, Laguna Honda Hospital, 375 Laguna Honda Blvd. 664-3620.

MAY 10: Media analyst Eduardo Cohen will show slides of the occupied territories and give a report on "Israel, Palestine, and the Requisites of Peace," in an event co-sponsored by the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and the International Jewish Peace Union. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-0158.

MAY 10 & 11: FDDTWDRK and Bay Area choreographers Emma Lou Huckabay, Cathleen McCarthy, Barbara Susco, and Claire Whistler present "Lite After Birth," a perspective on mothers as artists. 8:30 pm. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

MAY 11: The 16th annual Fair Daks STREET FAIRE promises 100 garage sales in live blocks, plus refreshments. 9 am-5 pm. Fair Daks St. between 21st & 26th. 824-2278.

MAY 11: Former Turtle Island String Quartet member IRENE SAZER teams up with Elizabeth Meade and others to explore a musical world that stretches from Corea and Ellington to original "New Folk" ballads. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

MAY 11-18: To commemorate MURAL AWARENESS WEEK, Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center will offer Mission District walking tours May 11-13, 15, 17 & 18, starting at 1:30 pm, 348 Precita Ave., plus visits to the Coit Tower murals May 11 & 18, 11 am, Telegraph Hill in North Beach. Call 285-2287 for reservations.



Noe Valley comedian Marga Gomez practices "Memory Tricks" on weekends at the Marsh in Cafe Beano, through May 19. PHOTO BY IRENE YOUNG

MAY 12: Precita Eyes presents a MURAL SYMPOSIUM (4-5 pm), a book-signing of *San Francisco Murals* by Tim Drescher (5-5:30 pm), and a reception to honor the artists in its "Muros" exhibition (6 pm). Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. 285-2287.

MAY 12: The Rocky Mountain Nursery School sponsors a Mother's Day FESTIVAL, featuring games, entertainment, food, a raffle, and a rummage sale. Noon-4 pm. Pexiotto Park, 15th & Beaver. 552-2929.

MAY 13: Everybody with a May birthday will be honored at the Diamond Senior Center's lunch and DANCE (music by Walter Traverso). Noon. 117 Diamond St. 863-3507.

MAY 15: Mission Police Captain John Newlin will deliver his "State of the Station" address at an open meeting of the S.F. POLICE Commission. 7 pm. Everett Middle School, 450 Church St.

MAY 16-JUNE 9: The Sangre Theatre Ensemble presents *Lorca at Viznar*, a passionate fictionalization of the last hours of Spain's great playwright and poet. Thurs.-Sun., 8:30 pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

MAY 17 & 18: The Eastern-European women's chorus KITKA presents a mix of Bulgarian, Ukrainian, Macedonian, and Serbo-Croatian choral music. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

MAY 18: Linda Grant, Jean Warmbold, and Mary Wings are the "SHEDUNITS" at a panel discussion featuring Bay Area women who pen mysteries. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 282-9246.

MAY 18: Circo della Terra (Circus of the Earth) is a free theatrical-musical PERFORMANCE featuring over 500 S.F. school children. Make "A" Circus, and kids from the Pickle Family Circus School. 2 pm. Stern Grove, 19th & Sloat. 771-1718.

MAY 19: Marlin Sanchez Jankowski will discuss his new book, *Islands in the Street: Gangs and American Urban Society*, a study of the secretive world of 37 YOUTH GANGS. 7 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 282-9246.

MAY 19: Join local residents, businesspeople, artisans, and performers at the Upper Noe NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY, 11 am-5 pm. Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez. Call Janice Gendreau at 641-5989.

MAY 21: The next monthly meeting of the GRAY PANTHERS of S.F. will feature a new musical revue by the senior theater project STEP. 1 pm. First Unitarian Church, Franklin & Geary. 552-8800.

MAY 23: San Francisco Beautiful will present its "BUD" plan for the city at a meeting of Upper Noe Neighbors. 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez. 641-5989.



Katie Murphy's monotype "Rain" hangs with mixed-media work by three other artists at the Meat Market Coffeehouse this month.

MAY 25: Psychic Horizons sponsors a PSYCHIC READING FAIR from 2-4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 346-7906.



The photographers organization S.F. Camerawork holds its second annual portrait party May 11-12.

MAY 25: The Women's Building honors LESBIANS OF COLOR with a concert by Judith Casselberry and Jaqué DuPrée, with bassist Nerida Rojas and percussionist Annette Aguilar, playing reggae-based "folk according to Ddeta." 8 pm. Mission High School, 3750 18th St. 431-1180.

MAY 25: Noe Valley MOVIES shows "Dadaists, Cineastes and Cartoonists: Visionary Short Subjects 1915-1939," including work by Jean Cocteau, Max Ophüls, Marcel Duchamp, Man Ray, and Felix the Cat. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

MAY 25 & 26: The 23rd Street Neighbors' GARAGE SALE offers a block of treasure-hunting, between Castro and Diamond. 9 am-5 pm.

MAY 25 & 26: CARNAVAL, San Francisco's multi-cultural "festival of abandon," includes a Carnival Festival on Harrison Street between 16th & 21st, featuring live entertainment, food, and crafts (11 am-7 pm both days), and a Grand Parade May 26, beginning at 24th & Bryant and progressing up Mission Street to 17th & Harrison (11 am-2 pm). 824-8999.

MAY 25-27: The PICKLE FAMILY CIRCUS performs "Acts of Luna Sea and Other Follies" in a benefit for the S.F. Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools. Noon & 3:30 pm. Glen Park, Elk & Chenery. 826-0747.

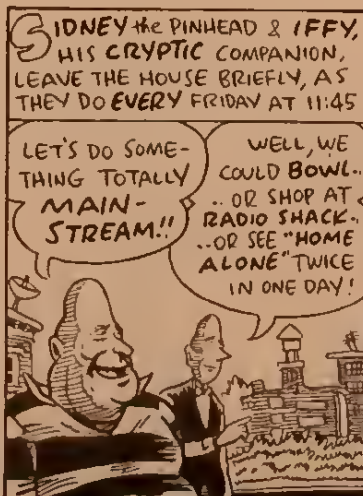
MAY 28: FILMS for preschoolers will be shown at 10 and 11 am; children 6 and older are invited for movies at 3:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

MAY 30-JUNE 2: The Friends of the S.F. Public Library's 26th annual BDDK SALE is called the "biggest in the West." Preview and auction May 30, 4-7 pm; May 31 & June 1, 10 am-5 pm; June 2 (books half-price), 10 am-3 pm. Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason. 557-4257.

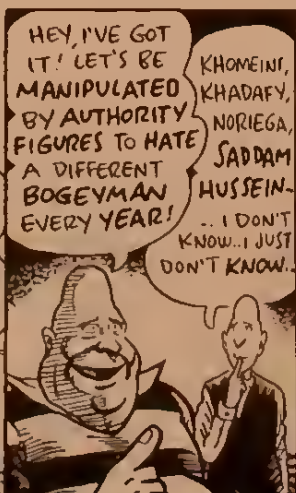
JUNE 1: KLEZMORIM performs hilarious comedy and the lively folk music of the Yiddish-speaking world in a 1ml show before the band's European tour. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

JUNE 4: Four neighborhood groups get together to sponsor a TOWN HALL meeting on Noe Valley's future. 7 pm. James Lick Middle School, 1220 Noe St.

ZIPPY



"YA GOTTA LOVE IT!!"



The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Note: The next issue of the *Voice* will appear June 4. The deadline for calendar items is May 15.